

WAKEFIELD
&
NORTH OF ENGLAND
TULIP SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 1836



NEWSLETTER
No 13
AUTUMN 2001

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY
(Established 1836)

OFFICERS 1999-2000

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, T Clark, J Ollerenshaw, Dr A K Swift, D Hopkins, Mrs J Green, Bob Bingham.
CHAIRMAN	K N Eyre
HON SECRETARY	Mr J L Akers 70 Wrenthorpe Lane Wrenthorpe Wakefield WF2 0PT Telephone 01924 375843
HON TREASURER	Mrs C Gude Barnsley Telephone
COMMITTEE	J L Akers, Mrs W M Akers, K N Eyre, J Gibson, Mrs C Gude, M Hainsworth, Ms S Madden, T Mitchell, Ms M Murray, Mrs B Pickering, P Turner, J Wainwright.
EDITOR	Mrs A Turner

Annual Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2001 became due on the date of the Annual Show May 2001 and are for the sum of £5 per Member or £6 for Family Membership.

Contents

The Chairmans Report, Keith Eyres

Editorial, Anne Turner

Treasurer s Report

Travel Arrangements, J.N.G.

Show Results Outwood

Report on Annual Show, J.N.G.

Tulips and Timepieces, Celia Fisher

Tulip and Timepieces Drawings

Another Florist Flower, J.N.G.

Tulips from Seed, Trevor Mills

The Chairman's Report 2000/01

This year was in many ways a 'washout' with heavy rain in late October and all November, just at the time of planting our bulbs. The wet conditions continued throughout the Winter and when Spring finally did arrive, it seemed to be two weeks late for the tulips affecting the showing season.

The Tulip Section at the Harrogate Show this year, despite the bad weather conditions, was again successful. The quality of the blooms is improving year by year.

This year the Malvern Show added more classes for tulips, and this is now providing a great opportunity for the members in the Midlands to excel.

Our own 166th Annual Show at Outwood attracted the media again, with two Television Companies attending. Channel 4 News had a film crew present and as a result of their days filming, we had a few minutes slot on the evenings News programme. Also Y.T.V. were doing a short piece for a programme on Flower Arranging by George Smith, and I understand this will be shown in Spring 2002. The Show was very well attended and the prizes well distributed amongst our members.

The Society's Garden Visits in July, were to Oxenhope in the morning, and in the afternoon high in the Pennines near Hebden Bridge. Both were hill gardens and splendid in their ways.

At our A.G.M. last October, I announced that after being Chairman of the Society for the past five years, I wished to stand down. However, as a successor was not immediately found - I agreed to carry on for a further year, but hope the Office will be filled at this years A.G.M.. The Society is also still looking for a Secretary. Would you please give this some thought, if not for this year, then for next.

Thank you for the support over the past six years from the Committee and all who have helped and have made the Society what it is today - very successful.

Best wishes,

Keith N Eyre.

Editors Report

This year has not been spectacular so far, firstly the wet winter and spring which meant that the Tulips were weeks behind. This in turn presented us a problem of how to force the flowers to have some to show, we came up with some very imaginative ideas, which fortunately seemed to work, although at the time Peter had some extremely heavy days and the electric meter went into overdrive.

We also have had family problems, which have resulted in the Newsletter being later than I intended, and us being unable to make the Societies garden visits this year.

I seem to get all the articles for the Newsletter from the same members each year, please give this some thought for next year, and hopefully I can get a bigger variety of articles. It would be really nice if I could have so many that I had to choose which to use and which to save for another year.

Next year, 2002 it will be the Dutch 'Floriade' in Haarlemmermeer near Amsterdam. This is held every 10 years and runs from 6th April to 20th October and covers an area of 160 acres, it will feature over 300 displays, including a large glass canopy (the size of 4 football pitches) to house the more exotic exhibits. We shall certainly try to get to it this time around.

Trevor Mills is trying to arrange a Coach trip to Floriade, the date is the weekend of April 12th; anyone interested should contact Trevor direct by Tel. No. 01543 683452.

If you really want to push the boat out, try a visit to The Butchart Gardens in Victoria, Canada. A little far for a garden visit, but if it is only half as good as the brochure it would be worth the journey, my boss visited them earlier this year and brought me back a beautiful book about the gardens and a brochure (just to tempt me). It covers an area of 50 acres and judging by the many colour photographs, uses great quantities of tulips in their spring displays.

Anne Turner

Treasurer's Report for Year ending 31 July 2001

Once again the Society had a good year financially. Although the operating surplus of approximately £100 seems small compared to the £1100 of last year, there was an increase in Sales Table stock valuation of almost £600 as a result of the purchase of the 'Steve Lovi' tulip card. These will provide a good income to the Society over the next few years. With the recovery of the value in the Abbey National shares the balance sheet shows a total improvement of well over £1000. The Society has closed its Savings Account which attracted little interest and will aim to keep sufficient money in the Current Account to finance normal expenses with the balance held in the Building Society Account.

Receipts

The income from subscriptions and donations showed a significant improvement as a result of the increase in the amount paid by members and by the success of a 'reminder' sent to members who had fallen behind in payment.

The Society booklet is currently out of print but will be available in a completely new form by next season. However this meant that there was negligible income during the year from that source.

The Sales Table income was down on last year however the net profit on sales was almost £300 which is a significant contribution to the Society. The profit from the AGM was similar to last year but the Main Show had a significant increase. Both benefited from good income from the raffles and plant sales and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who contributed.

Payments

The postage and printing costs are artificially low because they do not include the cost of £75 for the show results which will be included in next years accounts. However they are still significantly lower because of the removal from membership of those members who had not paid their subscriptions for a significant period and did not respond to the 'reminder' mentioned above.

The Newsletter printing and distribution costs continue to rise, however since the majority of members are unable to attend any of the shows or AGM it is an expense which is justified in order to maintain contact with and provide a service to members.

More bulbs than ever before were distributed which is reflected in the postage increase shown. However many members sent donations to cover the postage which is included in the receipts above.

We also managed to bring the engraving of the winners of most of the trophies up to date which had not been done for three or more years.

Future expenditure

During 2001/2002 the Society will produce the new booklet which will require an initial expenditure of up to £2000 which together with a significant profit will be recovered over the next four to five years.

Carole Gude.

Travel Arrangements.

As I had only four blooms to attend to at the show I had plenty of time to have a good look around the hall. One thing that impressed me were the diverse methods used by florists to transport their treasures.

The dairy and beer trade provided crates and bottles for some exhibitors, while others preferred large paint buckets complete with lids which had numbered holes drilled in them. Cardboard boxes were the preferred option for the teetotal non DIY exhibitors.

There were large jugs and test tubes (GM Tulips?) others staged their flowers in their cars, perhaps they were too shy to let us see their containers. The most impressive, was the gentleman who brought his blooms still attached to the bulbs in the pots in which they were grown.

What an imaginative lot you are.

J.N.G.

166th Annual Show Results

The number of entries in each class is shown in brackets

Vase Classes

Class 1 Vase of 18 Tulips (not English Florist) (7)

1. Mrs Pat King (Colne): Maureen 2. Mrs Pat King: Big Smile 3. Mrs Anne Turner (Swanwick): Gordon Cooper

Class 2 Vase of 12 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (7)

1. Mrs Pat King: Lighting Sun 2. Mrs Anne Turner: Menton 3. Chris Bone (Holmfirth): Long Lady, Lighting Sun

Class 3 Vase of 6 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (19)

1. Ken Bacon (Sutton in Ashfield): Hilary Clinton 2. Michael Garrett (Wellingborough): Menton 3. Mrs Pat King: Maureen

Class 4 Vase of 3 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (12)

1. Ken Bacon: Hilary Clinton 2. Mrs Pat King: Maureen 3. Mrs Anne Turner: Mariette

Class 5 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips (2)

1. Malcolm Hainsworth (York): James Wild 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Columbine

Class 6 Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips (1)

1. John Snocken (Bridgnorth): James Wild, Talisman, Juliet, Goldfinder, Gloria (all Breeders)

Class 7 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips (1)

1. Mrs Jane Green (North Ferriby): Jane L Eyre, Bessie

Open Classes

Class 8 Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties) (4)

1. Mrs B Royles (Hawarden): Goldfinder, Seedlings 70, 36, 11, 56, 67, 32, 31, 42, 41, 72, 7

2. Mrs Judith Baker (Stowmarket): Goldfinder, James Wild, Sam Barlow, Lord Stanley, Talisman, Bessie, Columbine, Music, Q92-9, Mabel, Hubert Calvert, Juliet

3. John Snocken: Goldfinder, Lord Stanley, Sam Barlow, James Wild, Bessie, Talisman, Coumbine, Music, Juliet, Gloria, Hubert Calvert, Mabel

Class 9 Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips (all dissimilar) (2)

1. James Akers (Wrenthorpe): Lord Stanley Fe, James Wild Fe, Lord F Cavendish Fl, Anniversary Fl, Mabel Fe, Wakefield Fe, Akers Fl, Wakefield Fl, Columbine Fe, Adonis Fe, Bessie Fl, Huberts 110 Fl 2. Mrs Judith Baker: Lord F Cavendish Fl, Sir Joseph Paxton Fl, Lord Stanley Fe, James Wild Fe, Columbine Fl, Bessie Fl, Habit de Noce Fe, Adonis Fe, Akers Fl, Mabel Fl, Wakefield Fe, Julia Farnese Fe

Class 10 Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar) (3)

1. Mrs Sarah Wainwright (Wrenthorpe): Lord Stanley Br, Mabel Br, Music Br, Lord F Cavendish Fl, Wakefield Fl, Bessie Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe, Akers Fe, Habit de Noce Fe 2. James Akers: Seedling Br, Seedling Br, Seedling Br, Lord Stanley Fl, Akers Fl, Bessie Fl, Lord F Cavendish Fe, Wakefield Fe, Adonis Fe 3. Mrs Jane Green: Sam Barlow Br, Gloria Br, Talisman Br, Sir Joseph Paxton Fl, Juliet Fl, Jane L Eyre Fl, Lord Stanley Fe, Mabel Fe, Columbine Fe.

Class 11 Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips (4)

1. James Akers: Lord F Cavendish Fl, Lord Stanley Fe, Mabel Fl, Wakefield Fe, John Hardman Fl, Adonis Fe 2. Mrs Sarah Wainwright: Lord Stanley Fl, Sir Joseph Paxton Fe, Akers Fl, Wakefield Fe, Bessie Fl, Columbine Fe 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley Fl, Lord Stanley Fe, Wakefield Fl, Wakefield Fe, Columbine Fl, Habit de Noce Fe

Class 12 Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties) (6) 1. John Snocken: James Wild, Goldfinder, Music, Talisman, Mabel, Juliet 2. Mrs B Royles: 12, Goldfinder. Music, 53, 42, 47 3. Mrs Sarah Wainwright: Lord Stanley, Goldfinder, Music, Talisman, Hubert Calvert, Mabel

Class 13 Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (6)

1. Mrs Judith Baker: James Wild Br, James Wild Fl, James Wild Fe 2. Mrs Jane Green:

Lord Stanley Br, Lord Stanley Fl, Lord Stanley Fe 3. Mrs Sarah Wainwright: James Wild Br, James Wild Fl, James Wild Fe

Class 14 Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (8)

1. Peter Turner (Swanwick): Sam Barlow, Columbine, Juliet 2. Mrs Judith Baker:

Goldfinder, Bessie, P92-21 3. Mrs Sarah Wainwright: Deryn Roberts, Columbine, Mabel

Class 15 Pair of Flamed (10)

1. James Akers: Wakefield Fl, Dr Hardy Fl 2.

Mrs Sarah Wainwright: Lord F Cavendish Fl, Akers Fl 3. Miss Emma Jamieson (Sale): Wakefield Fl, Lord Stanley Fl

Class 16 Pair of Feathered (5)

1. James Akers: Columbine Fe, Wakefield Fe

2. Ms Angela Harrington (Trowbridge): Agbrigg Fe, Joseph Paxton Fe 3. Mrs Sarah Wainwright: Wakefield Fe, Lord F

Cavendish Fe

Class 17 One Breeder (12)

1. Mrs Judith Baker: Deryn Roberts 2. Mrs Sarah Wainwright: Goldfinder 3. John Wainwright (Wrenthorpe): Q-92-13

Class 18 One Flamed (10)

1. Mrs Judith Baker: Lord F Cavendish Fl 2. James Akers: Wakefield Fl 3. John Gibson (Huddersfield): Wakefield Fl

Class 19 One Feathered (12)

1. Richard Smales (Dodworth): Wakefield Fe 2. Mrs B Royles: 72/1/2 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Unknown

Class 20 One Seedling Breeder or Rectified raised by the exhibitor (5)

1. Mrs B Royles: Seedling 4 (breeder) 2. John Wainwright: Q-92-23 Breeder 3. James Akers: Seedling 94/3Z Biz Fe.

Class 21 Three Seedling Breeders (one from each colour class) (1)

1. John Wainwright: FF-92-23, Q-92-23, G92-3

Novice Classes

Class 22 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (3)

1. Douglas Kydd (Oswestry): Sam Barlow Br, Lord F Cavendish Fl, Wakefield Fe 2. Andrew McDougall (Birmingham): Goldfinder Br, Lord F Cavendish Fl, Talisman Fe 3. Peter Turner: Columbine Br, Talisman Fl, Music Fe

Class 23 One Breeder (5)

1. Peter Turner: Mabel 2. Andrew McDougall: Mabel 3. Douglas Kydd: Talisman

Class 24 One Flamed (15)

1. Miss Emily Baker (Stowmarket) Lord F Cavendish 2. Jonathon Mitchell (Ossett): Bessie 3. Andrew Jamieson (Sale): Mabel

Class 25 One Feathered (6)

1. Andrew Jamieson: Sir Joseph Paxton 2. Steven Thompson (Nottingham) Lord F Cavendish 3. Douglas Kydd: Wakefield

Class 26 Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (2)

1. Douglas Kydd: James Wild, Columbine, Mabel 2. Mrs Anne Turner: James Wild, Talisman, Mabel

Extra Open Classes

Class 27 One Breeder (3)

1. Andrew McDougall: Music 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Unkown 3. Mrs Barbara Pickering (Newmillerdam): Talisman

Class 28 One Flamed (11)

1. Mrs Barbara Pickering: Bessie 2. Michael Garrett: Wakefield 3. Andrew Jamieson: Wakefield

Class 29 One Feathered (3)

1. Steven Tompson: Lord F Cavendish 2. Richard Smales: Akers Flame 3. Mrs Barbara Pickering: Mabel

Class 30 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (1)

1. Mrs Barbara Pickering: Mabel Br, Wakefield Fl, Wakefield Fe

Premier Blooms in the Show

Bessie Flame Mrs Barbara Pickering*
Newmillerdam

Overall Premier Bloom and Best Flame and Best Bloom in Extra Open Classes

Wakefield
Mrs Sarah Wainwright, Wrenthorpe

Best Feather Seedling

Mrs B Royles, Hawarden

Best Breeder

Lord F Cavendish Flame
Mrs Judith Baker, Stowmarket

Best Bloom Open Single Bloom Classes

Sir Joseph Paxton Feather
Andrew Jamieson Sale

Report on the 166th Annual Show

Held at Outwood Memorial Hall.

When I arrived at the hall just after 10 o'clock the team from Channel Four News were already busy filming. I saw Malcolm Hainsworth perform admirably in front of the camera, if he keeps that up he will need an Equity Card. Jonathon Mitchell also achieved his ambition of being interviewed. Unfortunately they both ended up on the cutting room floor in favour of the much more photogenic nine year old Emily Baker, who was the star of the newscast. At judging time the Yorkshire Television people arrived to film material for a forthcoming show with Susan Brookes and George Smith.

We had to suffer yet another year of abnormal weather, too cold, too wet, hailstones, thunder etc. etc. When we get a normal year that will really make the news. According to my dictionary, normal means conforming to the norm or natural, as every gardener and farmer knows each season is different in some respect from our conception of normal. Perhaps that is part of the excitement in our continuous battle with Mother Nature.

There were many tales of Dutch Tulips being reduced to stems due to rain and hail, while the English varieties showed more sense and remained in tight bud until the worst of the weather was over but even some of those showed signs of bruising by the hail.

In spite of tales of doom and gloom there were seven exhibits in the eighteen bloom class. There was some evidence of weather damage but the most disappointing aspect for some exhibitors was their failure to notice the number of petals on some of their blooms, consequently they were down-pointed as a result. However Mrs Pat King triumphed with her very nice vase of the white Maureen. Mrs King was also first in class two with Lighting Sun which is a very attractive combination of Orange and Yellow, she also won the Dutch Premier with that exhibit. Ken Bacon won both classes three and four with Hillary Clinton which is a variety that I have not seen before, it has a white base with a pink blush which intensified to a very clear pink on the tips of the petals. Ken only planted ten bulbs and showed nine blooms to win two first prizes. It is now on my wanted list. Malcolm Hainsworth produced his usual vase of twelve English. John Snocken and Mrs Green provided the other vases of English in classes six and seven respectively.

It was gratifying to see four exhibits in the stand of twelve class, not very long ago two exhibits were more usual. Mrs Brenda Royle deservedly won the class although her Rose no. 41 which was Premier was slightly con-

troversial as it had a fasciated stamen but it was still a nice bloom. I liked her no. 58 Bybloemen, also in this class Mrs Judith Bakers, Juliette took the eye. In the stand of twelve rectified I liked James Akers, Adonis feather and James Wild feather. Judith Baker had a good James Wild flame in her stand. Mrs Sarah Wainwright's Wakefield in class eleven was the best feather in show. Deryn Roberts was first in class seventeen for Mrs Baker. Deryn Roberts is named for Mrs Royle's grandson. The bloom was almost twice the size of its nearest competitor, which was Goldfinder. Mrs Baker also won the Premier card for the best flame with Lord Frederick Cavendish.

The Novice Section was well supported and there were new names on the prize cards.

Andrew Jamieson must have been proud to win the Novice premier with his Sam Barlow feathered. Barbara Pickering's Bessie was Premier, Best Flame in the show and Best Flame in the open class. She was justifiably proud of it. Another bloom of note was on the society's stand, it was a refugee from Malvern Show. If the English blooms are wine glass shaped this one was more of a pint pot.

The show closed as usual with the opening ceremony, which this year was performed by George Smith from York, he had been judging in Monaco the previous week. His speech contained a potted history of the Florist Tulip. Unusually the audience was quiet for the duration of his speech, his was one of the most interesting opening speeches that I have ever witnessed.

J.N.G.

Tulips and Timepieces

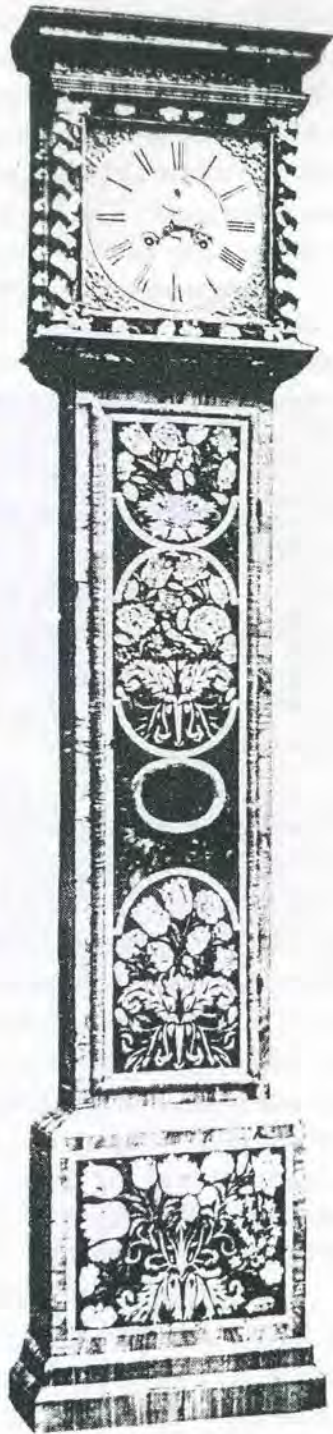
Seventeenth-century English clocks were often decorated with tulip designs - certainly far more than any other flower, their only rivals being the occasional daisy (which might be a sunflower) and the stylised "Tudor" rose whose shape accommodated itself more easily to the centre of the clock face. Before going into detail it is intriguing to speculate whether the link between tulips and clocks meant something. Certainly both were highly fashionable since domestic clocks as well as tulips were a novelty and both were status symbols available only to those rich enough to afford them. But they may also have shared a moral message, being recognised symbols of the transience of this mortal life and the futility of its pleasures. To take an example from the seventeenth-century satire, a clock is prominently placed in *Flora's Wagon of Idiots*, the painting by Henry Pot which mocked Dutch Tulipomania. It shows the goddess of flowers with bunches of tulips and accompanied by fools riding in a notoriously unstable "wind chariot" powered by a sail and about to capsize. In Dutch and Flemish still life paintings during the seventeenth-century clocks, watches, hourglasses, extinguished candles or pipes, even skulls, lay around among the more pleasurable objects as grim reminders.

But these items seldom appear in flower still life's, perhaps because the flowers themselves. And more especially tulips, contained this message in their own right. In paintings of vases of flowers you will often find that a particularly bright and upright tulip has been juxtaposed to a dark, drooping snakeshead fritillary, far too often to be a coincidence, it seems like a coded message. Similarly in the decoration of clockfaces there were other decorative motifs whose message was obvious, such as the winged cherub-heads which were also carved on graves, and occasionally skeletons with scythes, coffins or hourglasses, or mottos such as *tempus fugit* - although these were understandably far less popular than tulips.

Three types of clock were introduced in England during the seventeenth century - lantern longcase and bracket - all of which owed much of their original development to continental and especially Dutch inventiveness, giving another obvious link with tulip designs. Lantern clocks, made of brass and designed to hang on the wall, with just one hand to mark the hours, started production around 1600. They were first controlled by a balance wheel and weights and after about 1660 by pendulums - John Evelyn in his diary for April 1661 wrote that he had dined with "that great mathematician (Christian Huygens of Zulichem) the inventor of the pendule clock", and he again men-



Lantern Clock [above]: Made in London "near the French Church" around 1675, the tulip petals seem to be flamed. Longcase Clock [right]: A typical continental marqueterie longcase imported to house an English clock c.1695.



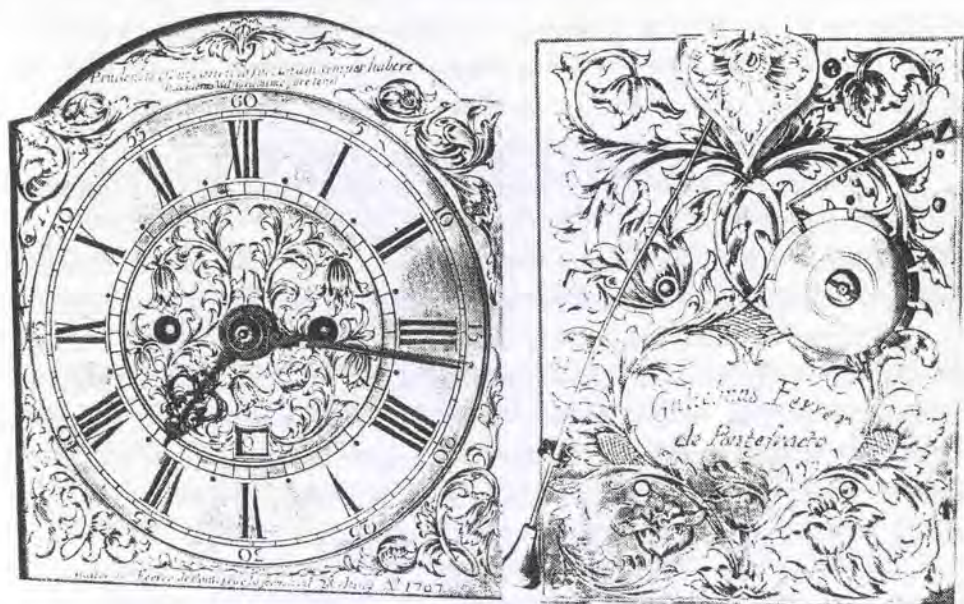
tioned this novelty after visiting the shop of "our famous Fromanteel" - a family of Dutch clockmakers settled in London. The tulip designs were engraved on the dials of lantern clocks, sometimes arranged in an outer circle because the centre held a circular alarm plate (now often missing); or else the tulips swirled upwards and outwards from a vase-like base, or a scroll holding the name of the maker. The engraved petals are usually shaded but sometimes they are distinctively marked like broken tulips, or even "flamed".

Longcase clocks came into production in England in the 1670's after the invention of the anchor escapement and longer pendulum meant the clock could operate with a narrower swing and thus be enclosed in a wooden and glazed case, creating a handsome piece of furniture and making the clock workings far less vulnerable to dust, corrosion and variations of temperature. Again the early dials were often beautifully engraved with tulip designs.

English clockmakers such as Thomas Tompion "the father of English clock-making", who trained up a whole generation of apprentices as his successors, normally placed their clocks in simple walnut or black-panelled cases. However with the fresh influx of continental fashion which accompanied the arrival of the Dutch monarchs William and Mary in 1688, elaborate marqueterie cases were imported for English clocks, and these were inlaid with a proliferation of tulip designs.

But to return to the engravings on the clocks themselves. The third type of seventeenth century English clock was the bracket clock - the rarest because they required the most skilled craftsmanship and they were made for the select few by the select few. They were driven by springs (and therefore their dials have winding holes) and being independent of hanging weights or long pendulums they were more portable and could stand on tables or mantelpieces. For this reason their backplates were as beautifully engraved as their dials. If they did stand on wall-brackets, as their name implies, or on mantelpieces, there was often a mirror behind them in which the backplate was displayed. Here the tulip designs were more elaborate than ever, the rectangle of the backplate allowed the flowers to arch outwards more flamboyantly; or if the tulips were arranged within circular scrolls of leaves there was room for more of them.

Generally the tulip petals look rather too curved or frilly but sometimes they have a beautiful goblet shape and "breaks" on the petals. These were clocks fit for a king, or a king's mistress. It is said that Charles II gave each of his mistresses a Tompion bracket clock with a tulip backplate as a gift.



Bracket Clock [above]: The dial and backplate from a bracket clock, both with finely engraved and elaborate tulip designs, which even re-appear in the dial corners, made by John Farrer of Pontefract in 1707.

Another Florist Flower.

Over the last two centuries there are numerous instances of Florists who grow more than one flower. The Rev. F. Daltrey Horner and C. W. Needham followed more recently by Hubert Calvert and John Ollerenshaw are examples that are easily recalled.

I cannot claim to be a member of that exalted band but I also grow Tulips and Auriculas, not to the standards achieved by the above gentlemen, but I still get a great deal of pleasure from both flowers.

Auriculas share the same alleged history with Tulips, ie: both being associated with the flemish weavers who were escaping religious persecution in the Low Countries. However as someone once observed "If you were fleeing for your life, you would be unlikely to board the ship with a box of Auriculas or Tulips under one arm and a loom under the other"

The Auricula is like the Florists Tulip, man made, there is nothing in nature like them.

Depending on your point of view, they are either thoroughbreds or mongrels. I favour the latter, as no one really knows where or when they originated.

Florist Auriculas are divided into two main types, the Shows which are sub divided into Edged and Self's. The Edged are unique in that the petals are of the same material as the leaves. Alpine Auriculas are the other main style and they are divided into Gold Centres and Light Centres. I know that is over simplification but like Tulips Auriculas have their own terminology which is baffling to the uninitiated. I will not bore you with the details.

Growing Auriculas is quite simple, then are a hardy plant but are grown under glass to preserve their beauty. The most popular compost is John Innes type, but everyone has their own additions to improve it, ie: adding grit, peat, bark and other substances. That is preferable to some of the sixteenth and seventeenth century recipes which included the addition of such goodies as Bulls Blood, Goose Dung and Nightsoil. It is perhaps as well that the flowers themselves are scented.

There are three Auricula Primula societies in this country all of which include the word National in their titles. Each of them have one main show each year, unfortunately, the Southern and Midland shows always cash so in reality it is only possible to exhibit at one of those and the Northern show. There is now a group of enthusiasts in the North East who stage a rapidly improving show at the end of the season so there are a maximum of three shows dedicated to the Auricula.

Auriculas are now available commercially but the best place to obtain plants is through one of the societies plant sales. Those interested in the fancy would be well advised to buy or borrow the following books, which are all very helpful to beginners:

Auriculas by Gwen Baker and Peter Ward

Auriculas for Everyone by Mary Robinson

Primulas Old and New by Jack Wemyss-Cooke

There are older books available in the second hand book trade or from libraries. While they are all interesting very few varieties they list are still grown.

J.N.G.

Have you ever grown Tulips from seed.

So said the notice on the stand of the Midland Tulip Society at the NEC Gardeners World Live in June. The seed we had for sale was the species tulip Sprengeri, supplied by one of our members Mrs Olive Mason from Kidderminster.

It certainly drew attention of the public not realising that all tulips start life in seed form, very much like they all feel that tulips come from Holland. Scarlet - olive - green backed flowers, with golden anthers, the plant 12 inches in height. Found last century near Amosifa in Northern Turkey, and now thought to be extinct in the wild.

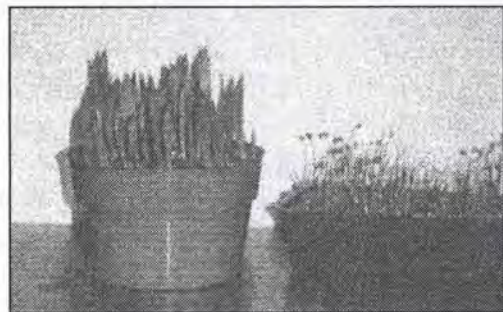
It was at Wakefield that I saw my first Sprengeri flower brought in by Barbara Pickering, purchased from a garden centre in a 3inch pot. Shortly afterwards I purchased seed from Chiltern Seeds of Ulveston Cumbria, and it is true they flower in four years.

Place the seed in a glass of water. When they have all sunk to the bottom they are ready to sow in a shallow seed tray of seed compost. At this stage you should be able to see the embryo at the pointed end of the capsule. Placed in a sheltered area outside where they cannot be disturbed, no heat is needed only the temperature as experienced over the winter. You will find that germination will take place around April as the days get warmer, and if capping has not taken place on the compost, an onion like seedling will appear with the seed capsule held aloft. It will grow to the length of approximately three inches to die after a few weeks, ready to be knocked out of the tray in July, the small bulbs on the base of compost like pearls. They should be stored in paper

bags in an even temperature of 68 deg. F not in the kitchen or the cellar, safe from mice. Personally I keep mine in the bedroom free from central heating. Grow on again each following year as shown, until the fourth year when they can be potted separately or placed in the desired position in the garden, to flower and naturalise. They set seed quite freely and seed themselves down to increase stock in the years to come. Having seen them for sale at £3.90 per bulb, it is easy to sell spare bulbs, when to hand.

It brings to mind an elderly gentleman whose garden ran parallel to mine. Although a church go-er, cursed the day when retiring, he did not plant fresh fruit trees. Like he said, he did not think he would live long enough to see them fruit. Annually he asked me to climb and gather the fruit from trees well past their sell by date.

Trevor Mills



Statement of Accounts

for Year Ending 31 July 2001

RECEIPTS	2001	2000	PAYMENTS	2001	2000
Subs/Donations	942.00	547.00	Insurance	104.00	104.00
Income - New Book	25.00	700.67	Postage	65.02	210.89
			Newsletter	369.63	217.11
			Printing etc	56.60	129.08
			Bulb Distribution	68.06	20.91
Sales Table receipts	561.90	658.57	Sales Table Purchases	887.58	249.63
Profit AGM	107.73	99.51	Memoriam		20.00
Profit Main Show	84.50	33.53	Engraving Trophies	70.00	0.00
Garden Visit		109.50	Garden Visit		120.00
Harrogate Prize Money	83.00		Harrogate Prize Money	80.50	
Donation		70.00	Operating Surplus	102.74	1147.16
TOTAL	1804.13	2218.78	TOTAL	1804.13	2218.78

Balance Sheet

Current Account			Current Account		
@ 31.7.00	509.00	362.74	@ 31.07.01	1257.94	509.90
Savings Account	244.77	242.94	Savings Account	0.00	244.77
Interest	0.53	1.83			
Building Society	3319.63	2249.70	Building Society	3006.95	3319.63
Interest	46.82	34.10			
Abbey Nat. Shares	650.15	949.63	Abbey Nat. Shares	979.00	650.15
Dividends	40.50	35.83			
Change in Share Value	328.85	-299.48			
Operating Surplus	102.74	1147.16			
Stock Valuation at Cost			Stock Valuation at Cost		
Sales Table	350.00	236.00	Sales Table	943.86	350.00
Booklet	64.09	565.00	Booklet	37.70	64.09
Stock Change in value					
Sales Table	593.86	114.00			
Booklet	-26.39	-500.91			
TOTAL	6214.55	5138.54	TOTAL	6225.45	5138.54

AGM October 2000

	2000	1999		2000	1999
Raffle	70.50	55.00	Hall Hire	38.50	29.15
Refreshments	57.60	39.20			
Plant Sales	34.00	41.80	Crockery Hire	15.87	12.34
Raffle Donation		5.00	Profit	107.73	99.51
TOTAL	162.10	141.00	TOTAL	162.10	141.00

English Show 19 May 2001

	2001	2000		2001	2000
Raffle	97.50	88.00	Hall Hire	84.00	70.00
Plant Sales	102.00	37.50	Goblets	141.00	121.97
Sale of Blooms	20.00		Gratuities	10.00	10.00
Sale of Food	100.00	110.00	Profit	84.50	33.53
TOTAL	319.50	235.50	TOTAL	319.50	235.50

Note the figures for the previous year for the AGM and English Show are the corrected ones issued at the AGM, not those published in the 2000 Newsletter.