

WAKEFIELD  
&  
NORTH OF ENGLAND  
TULIP SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 1836



NEWSLETTER No 14  
AUTUMN 2002

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY  
(Established 1836)

OFFICERS 1999-2000

PRESIDENT	The Marquess of Hartington
PATRONS	V Roozen Esq. K N Eyre
VICE PRESIDENTS	P Emmett, S Knowles, T Mills, J L Akers, C Marsh, T Clark, J Ollerenshaw, Dr A K Swift, D Hopkins, Mrs J Green. Bob Bingham, Anna Pavord, Wendy Akers.
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COMMITTEE	J L Akers, Mrs W M Akers, K N Eyre, J Gibson, Mrs C Gude, 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 2002 become due on the date of the Annual Show May 2002 and are for the sum of £5 per Member or £6 for Family Membership.

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## Chairman's Comments

On first thoughts this appears a relatively quiet time of the year for society members so far as our tulips are concerned. We watch our stored bulbs with hope filled anticipation and perhaps a twinge of anxiety. We wait eagerly for the distribution of bulbs from generous and productive members and consider our bedding plans. On second thoughts I recall all the other projects and activities undertaken by our members. Some are busy with other gardening enthusiasms, others in the preparation of this newsletter, preparation of lectures and exhibitions and representing the interests and sharing our passion for our tulip with audiences at home and abroad. Others are already planning the annual garden visits that are a delightful and memorable part of our year. I am both humbled and amazed at the efforts and enterprise of our members whose commitment makes the society that fine one that it is.

I am particularly grateful to members who serve on the committee, help to run the show with their technical, organizational, sales or catering skills and, most importantly, show their blooms whether for the first or fortieth time. At the funeral this year of our long serving member and judge, Jack Burton, I was reminded of the debt owed to our past members who, like Jack, ensured the survival of our Society. As the first (and we must all hope the last) person to Chair the Society without having successful experience in showing I owe special gratitude to Keith, James and Carole who have tried to smooth the transition.

Our two main shows, the Annual Show at Outwood and Dutch Show at Harrogate, gave pleasure to many beyond our membership. As in so many earlier years, members were able to overcome adverse conditions and offer very pleasing displays and difficult challenges for our judges. New members showed and others made rewarding progress. Members may not appreciate how close our show was to disaster. Despite James' careful efforts the show hall was locked due to the forgetfulness of the caretaker. Only quick thought and action from Terry Mitchell saved us from an *al fresco* show.

English Florists' tulips were shown at the Ancient Society of York Florists 234th show for the first time in many years, and also for the first time at Harrogate. So, along with The Midland Tulip Society's efforts in promoting the tulip at Malvern show, more and more people are having the

opportunity to see the flowers in the flesh. Following the main show a good proportion of the blooms were transported to Constable Burton Tulip Day. As in earlier years the Florists' tulip added to the high quality displays and setting that this splendid home and garden offer. Most impressive was the bed of breeders set out by James Akers and John Wainwright in the early nineteenth century manner. I cannot attempt to explain the planting order but I am sure that details of this ambitious reconstruction will be available to those who ask.

The Society's garden visit to the Staffordshire - Shropshire border in early July was delightful. Those who attended are indebted to Barbara Pickering for arranging contrasting yet complementary visits to Dr Eyre Walker's home, at Offley Brook, and Wollerton Old Hall. Reports on these visits will be offered elsewhere in this newsletter. This outing was a high spot in the year.

I took advantage of this outing to visit Peter and Beryl Royle's home to see the location of his sustained and successful efforts to raise seedling breeders. Peter not only shared his accumulated experience but also offered a handsome cup to the Society. The Committee was pleased to accept this and propose to award it, at Peter and Beryl's suggestion to a class for nine breeders.

I believe this was the first year in which I have assisted some of our judges by acting as a steward. I may not have eased their task but I did see the remarkable attention to detail, the systematic diligence and the total fairness of their deliberations. I was struck by their judgement, which was informed by experienced and informed eyes and a thorough understanding of our tulip's qualities. It became obvious to me that we should encourage more members to participate in this demanding but essential part of our obligation to our lovely flower.

**Malcolm Hainsworth**



# Editors Report

2002 has been a very busy year for me and a very enjoyable one.

Despite not having many tulips to show, I have managed to show a few at each venue.

At the beginning of April we were approached by a couple of TV programmes to give them both tips on Tulip growing how we were coping with the changing climate, how we transport our blooms and how we stage the blooms at the shows.

One of the crews did a days filming both on our allotment and in our garden, the presenters were great fun and we had an hilarious day filming, they also did a similar day with Wendy Akers and then they followed us to the Malvern Show where they did mock entries with the blooms Wendy and I gave to them, Wendy's beat mine. I don't think the filming will ever hit your screens though, or be a box office smash hit.

In April we also had an other trip to Holland, both to the Floriade which was very different to how I imagined it to be, but spectacular and interesting, we took our Couriers advice and caught the road train to the other end and walked back, a sound piece of advice as the site is about a mile long, the Tulips were at their best, and the whole site was very interesting as well as informative, I am glad we went this year as in ten years unless they provide Golf Buggies we will not be going again. The following day was a visit to the Keukenhof Gardens, unlike our last visit the Tulips were at their best, a feast to the eyes.

Then followed Harrogate, Malvern and our Annual Show, we were certainly ready for our next holiday.

After listening to many comments regarding cakes at the shows I asked Joanna to let me have the recipe for her scrummy fruit cake which is in the News Letter this time, I accept no responsibility for any weight gain as a result of this.

The report on the Garden Visits in 2002 is enclosed loose, as Robin Spencer created a superb report including photographs, this was the most cost effective way to include this article.

**Anne Turner**

# Treasurer's Report for Year ending 31 July 2001

Hold the front page! We have made a surplus this year of £785.13. Well done everyone. How did you manage this?

Subscriptions remain high, due in part to members keeping up to date and also an influx of a good number of new members, who we hope will stay with us. The AGM and Annual Show were highly profitable this year and once again we are indebted to those same people who work very hard to make them a success. Trevor Mills deserves a special mention for achieving his first £100 total for the raffle. May there be many more in the future. The sales table has been useful once again in generating income and we are looking for even more suitable items to sell.

Running costs this year have been kept within reasonable limits, particularly postage, which is our largest expenditure by far. There have been no unusual expenses this year, although we might need to consider soon some restoration work on the trophies as well as continuing to bring the engraving up to date.

The resulting balance sheet looks very healthy this year enabling us to comfortably pay for the publishing of the new book and, I hope, some notelets and postcards of our own design, which we have been looking towards for some time.

I make no apologies for saying once again a big thank you to all who have contributed to such a successful financial year.

**Carole Gude**



## Jack Burton

John Burton died suddenly on 24 January 2002, aged 78. Better known to Society members as Jack, he was a keen exhibitor in the early 1940s and 1950s. In those days you had to be a keen exhibitor to win an award, let alone a trophy with exhibitors like the Robinsons, Bill Beddows, Frank Fox, Jim Akers, Albert Tear and Norman Eyre to name just a few.

A few years ago I was asked by members of the committee of the Society if I would judge the English Florists' Tulips classes at the annual show which was a great honour. I immediately asked Jack Burton if he would judge the show with me, which he did, and judging with him over the past few years was sheer pleasure and also a great learning experience for me. Jack was a mine of information with his great knowledge of florists' tulips, which I and many others will sadly miss. It won't be the same without "the two Jacks", as we were called by the exhibitors, judging the show in May.

**Jack Taylor, January 2002**





# Harrogate Spring Flower Show

## James Akers

The sixth tulip show that the Society has organised at the Harrogate Spring Flower show was the largest yet with 30 exhibitors entering a total of 149 vases or pots.

The Tulip Championship of Great Britain for three cultivars, nine blooms of each, was being held for the fourth time and there were a record eleven exhibits this year.

No competitor has been successful in winning this class for a second time and this year was no exception with Wendy Akers placed first with vases of 'Vivex', 'World's Favourite' and 'Mirella'.

In second place was Liz Tomlinson showing 'World's Favourite', 'Big Smile' and 'Pink Impression' and Chris Bone was third with 'Golden Apeldoorn', 'Françoise' and 'Long Lady'.

In the single vase of nine tulips where competition was also very strong there were 16 entries and James Akers won with 'World's Favourite', a cultivar that is beginning to rival its fellow Darwinhybrid 'Vivex' as the top show cultivar. Mrs Pat King was second with the Single Late 'Caravelle' and Teresa Clements third with the yellow Triumph 'Golden Melody'.

Teresa had never previously entered a tulip show but she also gained third prize in the two classes which attracted the highest number of entries, those for three lily flowered which had 18 and the class for three pink or red, where there were 24.

Caroline Wright a local exhibitor won the lily flowered class with 'Pieter de Leur' and the red/pink was won by Anne Smales' 'Vivex'.

Overall the ladies did rather well this year.

## Results

### **Class 1 3 Vases of 9 Tulips, 3 different varieties, one per vase (11)**

1. Mrs W M Akers (Wrenthorpe) 'Vivex', 'Worlds Favourite', 'Mirella' 2. Mrs E Tomlinson (Northwich) 'Worlds Favourite', 'Big Smile', 'Pink Impression' 3. C Bone (New Mill) 'Golden Apeldoorn', 'Francoise', 'Long Lady'

### **Class 2 9 tulips - one variety (16)**

1. J L Akers (Wrenthorpe) 'Worlds Favourite' 2. Mrs P King (Colne) 'Caravelle' 3. Teresa Clements (Harrogate) 'Golden Melody'

### **Class 3 3 Lily flowered tulips, one variety (18)**

1. Ms C Wright (Harrogate) 'Pieter de Leur' 2. D McDonald (Whickham) 'Maytime' 3. Teresa Clements 'Sapporo'

### **Class 4 3 Parrot flowered tulips, one variety (6)**

1. Mrs W M Akers 'Weber's Parrot' 2. D McDonald 'Apricot Parrot' 3. Mrs W M Akers 'Prof. Rontgen'

### **Class 5 3 Double flowered tulips, one variety (3)**

1. Ms C Wright 'Blue Diamond' 2. D McDonald 'Wirosa' 3. D McDonald 'Mount Tacoma'

### **Class 6 3 Fringed tulips, one variety (5)**

1. D McDonald 'Fringed Apeldoorn' 2. Mrs A Turner (Swanwick) Unknown 3. P Turner (Swanwick) Unknown

### **Class 7 3 Yellow flowered tulips, one variety (11)**

1. K Bacon (Sutton in Ashfield) 'Big Smile' 2. Mrs M Cowie (Harrogate) 'Blushing Apeldoorn' 3. P Turner Unknown

### **Class 8 3 White flowered tulips, one variety (6)**

1. D McDonald 'Maureen' 2. P Turner Unknown 3. Mrs A Turner Unknown

### **Class 9 3 Pink or Red flowered tulips, one variety (24)**

1. Mrs A Smales (Dodworth) 'Vivex' 2. J Mitchell (Ossett) Unknown 3. Teresa Clements 'Palestrina'

### **Class 10 3 tulips any other colour, one variety (18)**

1. C Bone 'Hilary Clinton' 2. K Bacon Unknown 3. D McDonald 'Dordogne'

### **Class 11 3 Pink or Red flowered tulips, one variety (3)**

1. P Turner Unknown 2. P Turner Unknown 3. Mrs M Cowie 'Sweetheart'

### **Class 12 3 tulips any other colour, one variety - restricted entry (3)**

1. Not awarded 2. D McDonald 'Dordogne' 3. K Bacon Unknown

### **Class 13 A Bowl or pan of species tulips containing not less than 5 bulbs (3)**

1. T Mitchell Unknown 2. J Mitchell Unknown 3. F Jackson Wakefield Unknown



# 167th Annual Show

## James Akers

### Vase classes

In this section, there were a total of 45 entries, which was slightly fewer than last year and consisted almost entirely of late flowering cultivars. Mrs Pat King won the John Hardman Memorial Vase for a vase of 18 tulips, for the second successive year, with 'Menton' with Andrew McDougal and Anne Turner in second and third. In the class for twelve tulips Barbara Pickering's 'Menton' were awarded the Peter Emmett Trophy for Best Vase in this section. Pat King gained the award for Most Points in the section.

### Florists Tulips

John Wainwright dominated the classes for breeders winning the twelve, six and three breeder classes, with seedlings, which gave him enough points to win the Jim Akers Memorial goblet for Most Points in the Open section. The single breeder class was won by Beryl Royles showing one of husband Peter's seedlings, 98 which was awarded Best Breeder in show.

The class for twelve rectified tulips had only one entry, my own, but was adjudged worthy of first place, the best flower being a 'Wakefield' flamed which became Best Flame and overall Best Bloom in show. In the class for nine blooms, breeder flame and feather from each of the colour types, Sarah Wainwright was and I was successful in the class for six rectified, which included a 'Royal Sovereign' that was made Best Feather in show. This cultivar is the oldest English cultivar we grow ('Habit de Noce' is French), and was raised around 1810. Jane Green's winning flamed 'Talisman' won the Cochrane of Cults Vase and since very few good broken 'Talisman' have been seen over the past 30 years, it is hoped that Jane will manage to get good increase from this rectified clone.

Sarah Wainwright exhibited for the first time in her winning nine, a new bybloemen of my raising, 'Rory McEwen' flamed which is pictured in this year's RHS Daffodils, Snowdrops and Tulips 2002-3. 'Rory McEwen' has also produced a good feathered flower since it first broke about eight years ago so hopefully it will be distributed among the Society members over the next few years. Also encouraging were two newly broken feathered seedlings, shown by husband John Wainwright, which were awarded second place in the

class for a pair of feathers and also a feathered seedling 30, from Beryl Royles which was also placed second in the single feather class. Any new good broken flowers are always welcome.

After over ten years of trying, Kate Swift won the Novice section and also the Extra-Open section. 'James Wild' won the Best Bloom awards in both these sections, a feather for David Tarver in the Novices and a flame for Emily Baker, the youngest exhibitor, in the Extra-Open section.

Anna Pavord opened the show and congratulated the Society on the excellent display of English Florists' tulips.

## Results

### **Class 1 Vase of 18 Tulips (One variety not English Florist) (5)**

1. Pat King (Colne) 'Menton' 2. Andrew McDougal (Selly Oak) 'Maureen' 3. Anne Turner (Swanwick) Unknown

### **Class 2 Vase of 12 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (4)**

1. Barbara Pickering (Newmillerdam) 'Menton' 2. Barbara Pickering 'Maureen' 3. Pat King 'Menton' plus Unknown

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

1. Pat King Unknown 2. Sylvia Robertson (Sunderland) Unknown 3. Joanna Spencer (Newport, Shropshire) 'Menton'

### **Class 4 Vase of 3 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (11)**

1. Pat King 'Menton' 2. Richard Smales (Barnsley) 'Menton' 3. Anne Turner 'Menton'

### **Class 5 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips (1)**

1. Emily Baker (Hitcham) 'Talisman' Breeder 2. Not awarded 3. Not awarded

### **Class 6 Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips (1)**

1. Not awarded 2. Emily Baker 'James Wild' 3. Not awarded

### **Class 7 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips (4)**

1. Trevor Miles (Walsall) 'Talisman' 2. Andrew Jamieson (Sale) Not recorded 3. Douglas Kydd (West Felton) 'Wakefield'

### **Class 8 Stand of 12 Breeders (different**

### **varieties) (4)**

1. John Wainwright (Wrenthorpe) Seedlings 2. Beryl Royles (N. Wales) Seedlings 3. Judy Baker (Hitcham) 'Mabel', 'Hubert Calvert', 'Gloria', 'Juliet', 'Columbine', L92-13, 'Talisman', 'Bessie', 'James Wild', CC92-20, 'Goldfinder', 'Sam Barlow'

### **Class 9 Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips (all dissimilar) (1)**

1. James Akers (Wrenthorpe) 'Mabel' Fe, 'Wakefield' Fe, 'Wakefield' Fl, 'Akers' Fl, 'Agbrigg' Fe, 'Columbine' Fe, 'Columbine' Fl, 'Habit de Noce' Fl, 'James Wild' Fe, 'Royal Sovereign' Fe, 'Paxton' Fl, 'Dr Hardy' Fl 2. Not awarded 3. Not awarded

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

1. Sarah Wainwright (Wrenthorpe) Br. 'Goldfinder', 'Juliet', Seedling, Fl 'Dr Hardy', 'Wakefield', 'Rory McEwen', Fe 'Royal Sovereign', 'Wakefield', 'Columbine' 2. Judy Baker (Hitcham) Br 'Goldfinder', 'Talisman', 'Mabel', Fl 'Lord F Cavendish', 'Bessie', 'Wakefield', 'Royal Sovereign', 'Habit de Noce', 'Julia Farnese' 3. John Snocken (Bridgnorth) Br 'James Wild', 'Mabel', 'Music', Fl 'Sir J Paxton', Unknown, 'Bessie', Fe 'Sam Barlow', 'Wakefield', 'Adonis'

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

1. James Akers 'Mabel' Fe, 'Wakefield' Fe,



'Habit de Noce' Fe, 'Agbrigg' Fl, 'Royal Sovereign' Fl, 'James Wild' Fl 2. Douglas Kydd 'Wakefield' Fe, 'Wakefield' Fl, 'Columbine' Fe, 'Columbine' Fl, 'James Wild' Fe, 'James Wild' Fl 3. Sarah Wainwright 'Akers' Fl, 'Wakefield' Fe, 'Bessie' Fl, 'Columbine' Fe, 'Dr Hardy' Fl, 'Sir J Paxton' Fe

**Class 12 Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties) (4)**

1. John Wainwright Seedlings 2. Jane L Green (North Ferriby) 'Juliet', 'Hubert Calvert', 'Columbine', 'Music', 'James Wild', 'Lord Stanley' 3. Beryl Royles Seedlings

**Class 13 Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (5)**

1. Judy Baker 'James Wild' Br, Fl, Fe 2. John Snocken 'James Wild' Br, Fl, Fe 3. Malcolm Hainsworth (York) 'Talisman' Br, 'Columbine' Fl, 'Agbrigg' Fe

**Class 14 Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (5)**

1. John Wainwright Seedlings 2. Jane L Green 'Hubert Calvert', 'Music', 'James Wild' 3. Beryl Royles Seedlings

**Class 15 Pair of Flamed (5)**

1. Sarah Wainwright 'Akers Flame', 'Lord F Cavendish' 2. Judy Baker 'Wakefield', 'Lord F Cavendish' 3. Barbara Pickering 'Wakefield', 'Lord F Cavendish'

**Class 16 Pair of Feathered (5)**

1. Jane L Green 'Sam Barlow', 'Talisman' 2. John Wainwright Seedlings 3. Judy Baker 'James Wild', 'Agbrigg'

**Class 17 One Breeder (9)**

1. Beryl Royles Seedling 98/2. Barbara Pickering 'Talisman' 3. John Wainwright Seedling

**Class 18 One Flamed (14)**

1. Jane L Green 'Talisman' 2. John Snocken 'Sir J Paxton' 3. Barbara Pickering 'Lord Stanley'

**Class 19 One Feathered (8)**

1. Sarah Wainwright 'Sir J Paxton' 2. Beryl Royles Seedling 30 3. Barbara Pickering 'Columbine'

**Class 20 One Seedling Breeder or**

**Rectified raised by the exhibitor (3)**

1. John Wainwright Seedling (row23 group4) 2. Beryl Royles Seedling 3. Beryl Royles Seedling

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

1. John Wainwright Seedlings 2. Not awarded 3. Not awarded

**Class 22 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (6)**

1. Kate Swift (Bridgnorth) 'Juliet' Br, 'Wakefield' Fl, 'Wakefield' Fe 2. Joanna Spencer 'Talisman' Br, 'Wakefield' Fl, 'Wakefield' Fe 3. Emily Baker 'Talisman' Br, 'Mabel' Fl, 'Lord Stanley' Fe

**Class 23 One Breeder (12)**

1. Emily Baker 'Goldfinder' 2. David Tarver (Belton) 'Gloria' 3. Kate Swift 'Juliet'

**Class 24 One Flamed (18)**

1. Marguerite Murray (Wakefield) 'Lord Stanley' 2. Kate Swift 'Wakefield' 3. Emily Baker 'Lord F Cavendish'

**Class 25 One Feathered (5)**

1. David Tarver 'James Wild' 2. Kate Swift 'Wakefield' 3. Pat King 'Lord Stanley'

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

1. Kate Swift 'Juliet', 'Bessie', seedling 2. Joanna Spencer 'Goldfinder', 'Talisman', 'Hubert Calvert' 3. Not awarded

**Class 27 One Breeder (7)**

1. Emily Baker 'Mabel' 2. Kate Swift 'Juliet' 3. Sylvia Madden 'Bessie'

**Class 28 One Flamed (11)**

1. Emily Baker 'James Wild' 2. John Gibson (Huddersfield) 'Agbrigg' 3. Douglas Kydd 'Sir J Paxton'

**Class 29 One Feathered (2)**

1. Kate Swift 'Wakefield' 2. Not awarded 3. Bob Taylor (Baildon) Hubert's seed 112

**Class 30 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (2)**

1. John Gibson 'Talisman' Br, H103 Fl, 'Agbrigg' 2. Kate Swift 'Lord Stanley' Br, Fl, Fe 3. Not awarded.

## Tulips and the Tropics - some ideas for us?

Texas, Florida, Southern California and the Australian east coast have many wonderful gardens. I have been reading how Orchids, bougainvilleas and many other fabulous blooms grow in profusion, even the trees have large colourful flowers. With all this floral richness we might think that the tulip would have little appeal. But we would be wrong!

Such is the allure of the tulip that people in subtropical climates have spent much time and effort to find ways of growing this cold climate flower. Perhaps its properties, so familiar to us, have universal appeal: the remarkable variety of colours, the range of colour intensities, the silken sheen of the petals, or the location of the bloom at the top of the plant, all combine to give it a special attraction.

Early attempts at growing tulips in warm climates proved useless as the bulbs would not form roots. Research found that the roots only begin to grow when the temperature of the bulb is below 52 degrees F (11 degrees C). It was found that 12 to 16 weeks below this temperature is required to produce a full root system. The established practice now is to chill the dry bulbs for half this time in darkness, then plant them into chilled soil mixture in containers which are kept refrigerated for the remainder of this period.

In his lecture in 1897 C W Needham (as recorded in "The English Tulip and its history") advised that planting time in Britain "is late in October or early November" or "to name the day" November 9, Lord Mayor's Day, though September is not too early nor December too late.

A century later we have global warming and warmer, wetter autumn weather. Frosts in September now seem rare and this will allow soil temperature to remain high until well into autumn. Members that I have spoken with say they tend to delay planting beyond November in response to the warmer autumn weather and the increased risk of disease. I think many growers would now regard September as much too early.

This, as Trevor would say, "set off a train of thought" in my mind. As tulip root will not start to grow when the soil temperature is above 52 degrees F. Then bulbs planted too early must lie there dormant in wet soil and prone to disease. So how can I find out when the soil has cooled below this level?

I bought one of those digital thermometers for under £4 that has a probe on



the end of a cable for measuring the temperature outdoors. I have this idea of setting it up in my garden shed with the probe led out into the ground to tulip planting depth. If it works, I will see if I can measure soil warmth during the autumn to find out when the soil cools to below 52 degrees F. I don't know yet if it will work, but I hope to find out!

Another idea that we might borrow from warm climate tulip growers is the chilling of bulbs before planting. If the autumn is warm and very wet and the soil in the tulip bed is heavy and poorly drained, perhaps it would be safer to keep the bulbs in darkness in a fridge during November and December and plant them out in early January. The grower would get some New Year exercise working off the Christmas pudding and the bulbs would get the rest of their necessary cold period in the ground ready to bloom in the spring.

Does anyone have an old fridge want to give it a try? Although they say there's a mountain of them out there - I regret I have no room!

**Steve Thompson**

*Reference: Bulbs for all Climates Australian Women's Weekly Garden Guide, 1994*

## A Ball of Colour

For those interested in container growing have you ever thought of making yourself a tulip basket for the coming spring?

What is needed is 16 Greigii tulip bulbs, (growing 8 inches in height), one hanging basket, moss for lining or the equivalent ie; Biogrow a by product of wool, but be on your guard in respect of this as the birds think it is great for nesting material, compost and last of all two 19cm 3 litre pots.

During November make up the basket in the conventional way pointing the neck of the bulb towards the outside, or if they are already in growth, placing the bulb in the compost and the growing point through the perimeter. Placing the remaining four bulbs into one of the pots.

When this has been done, place the empty pot into the centre of the basket covering the whole with a board or something of that nature and inverting it completely.

In the Spring once the bulbs have started to grow and the basket is looking like the "Millennium Dome" reverse the procedure taking away the board and the empty pot, replace this with the other one that should be in full growth.

If more than one basket is made up, what about joining them together as one unit in a sphere.

Maybe in years to come a class may be added to the schedule, for this array of flowers, this happens in the fuchsia world.

**T Mills**



## Vivex

In autumn 1992 Derek Bircumshaw delivered some hyacinths I had ordered and threw in a bag of tulip bulbs, equivalent to a 3lb flour bag "try these" he said "it's a seedling". Try it we did and the following spring won the class of a vase of 3 Darwin Hybrids at the RHS Late Show. We repeated this in 1994 and in 1995 we received a silver Simmons medal for the best exhibit, and a photograph appeared in the Daffodil and Tulip Year Book for 1995-1996.

The first time it was shown in 1993 the Dutchmen present said it was called Vivex. Vivex was introduced in 1960 and Stanley Killingback mentions it in his book "Tulips" in the context of it being a non-red Darwin Hybrid. He classified it as orange. It's curious therefore that we classify it as red, which it certainly isn't. Be that as it may, even though it has been around for over 40 years, I've never met anyone in England who was familiar with it.

Following its initial success we asked Derek to supply more bulbs, this he duly did and in 1994 we flowered a big ginger tulip which was the closest to an ugly tulip as you can get. Luckily I still had the original stock. In 1995 the supply was genuine and we were up and running.

Everyone was not so successful in locating a reliable supply, though I did pass some bulbs on to fellow exhibitors.

At the inaugural tulip show at Harrogate in 1997 we took first prize with 9 Vivex and repeated this in 1998. Also in 1998 we won the 9 and 3 at the RHS but the medal went to 3 decidedly dodgy West Point. In the words of the Dutch Judge "West Point is a better cultivar".

1998 was the Daffodil Society Centenary and the show was held in conjunction with Solihull Horticultural Society. We won their classes 5 and 3 tulips with Vivex. While basking in our glory Anne and I were startled by an American walking into the hall and from a distance of 3 or 4 yards exclaiming "Gee, there is old Vivex".

Something funny seemed to be going on and acrimonious thoughts were triggered which thankfully have proved unfounded. Surely the Dutch bulb growers didn't play the same game with us as the French and German wine growers and only send us what nobody else wants?

By now Vivex was becoming widely grown and were thankful for that. In 2000 we took the Walter Blom Trophy with 9 Vivex at the RHS. Interestingly the exhibit was not considered worthy of a Simmons medal but warranted a photo in the D & TYB 200-2001. Keith Eyre's says he was never party to such

a judging decision, but the RHS works in curious ways. We gave 2001 a miss.

This year we again won the Walter Blom Trophy with 9 Vivex at Westminster and again have a beautiful crystal bowl to prove it. Whether we get the medal remains to be seen. After judging with Dutch colleagues again this year Keith informed me that the Dutchmen don't like Vivex. I can only guess why this is so.

If I grow West Point I dig up lots of bits to grow on. The dutchmen will get a lot of flowering size bulbs to sell. When I dig Vivex up I get a bulb as big as the one I planted plus a flowering size offset and maybe the odd bit besides. I don't need to buy more, and it's not increasing for the commercial grower. No wonder West Point is a "better cultivar".

Bulb growers are farmers. Like our potato farmers at home, they are more concerned with tons per acre than taste or texture. On the other hand it may be that a commercial rival grows the stock of Vivex who knows? The intrigues in Dutch bulb growing are unlikely to have ended with tulipomania.

But still the mystery remained, where has Vivex been hiding. In desperation I talked to Derek Birkumshaw and the answer is simple. Adjacent to the farm/sorting sheds he deals with, is a large holding which deals exclusively with the USA. They export containers of bulbs to supply the American mail order business. It was a chance meeting with this grower in 1992 that resulted in the bag of bulbs coming our way. Our success has been due to being in the right place at the right time, recognising the potential and exploiting it. It's the flower itself that deserves the accolade.

The arrival of Vivex I believe gave exhibiting Dutch tulips the boost it needed. People saw what was achievable and strove to emulate it. Vivex set a standard that so far only World's Favourite approaches.

Wendy says Coes Breed told her that Vivex has a sister seedling called Forgotten Dreams where is it? How many other "non-commercial" gems nestle in remote corners of a foreign field?

**Richard Smales**



## Midlands Report

The Tulip Feast last October at the New Phoenix public house Coventry proved to be a mixed affair. The first speaker Mark Walsh had started a garden centre based on tulips, down in Devon, he gave us his observations on various varieties, together with an invitation for a cream tea if anyone was down that way.

It had been proposed to continue with a further talk on hydroponics, but the person concerned had to decline as he was called away to go to Cyprus.

A substitute was found from Shipley West Yorkshire, brave enough to bring us information on the subject but was not able to enthuse the audience.

The Floriade Trip to Holland though poorly attended proved a great success, and the society has been asked to arrange another trip in 2003. The Hampton Court show being a popular choice. Personally I was able to visit our Patron Victor Roozon who has had a stroke which has left him with no use down his right side, but this has not impaired his brain which is very active, and any contact with him would be appreciated. The address is as follows:- P. A. St Berbarodus, A. F. D. Teglingen, Hoofdstraat 82,2171 A.V. Sassenheim, Holland. He wanted to be remembered to you all.

It was pointed out to me by member Judi Cripps that the Tulip Festival and plant fair at Stapenhill Garden's Burton on Trent was worth visiting on April 7th. This proved to be true as the planting of beds of tulips appeared to be at their best, together with light entertainment, making it a great venue.

This year on Easter Sunday and Monday saw us at Thrumpton Hall Nottingham. A great little show together with excellent organisation.

Malvern Spring Show was blessed with sunny weather bringing in the crowds to admire the English Tulips on show.

It was requested exhibitors meet at 6 30pm to air their views on the days events. The Hardy Plant Society expressed displeasure on being down graded to fourth place in the stand competition. First being taken by the Auricular Society with an auricular theatre representing the one at Calke Abbey

In Derbyshire. The exchange became quite heated, and it was heard that one did not deal in office furniture. What will be the reaction when a wooden tulip vase is shown next year?

On to the N E C Gardeners World Live Birmingham from 19th - 25th June

which was filled to overflowing. Showing off our 17th century tulip vase, bringing together the carpenter Ray Punnett and artist Joanna Spencer, a wonderful achievement for both parties, and a once in a lifetime experience.

Hoping to bring it to the A. G. M. at Wrenthorpe in October.

As always there is something that makes it worth manning the stand. An enquiry was made by a lady asking if I knew a tulip by the name of Madison, I told her I would try and find out, but could she tell me her concern. It turned out that a grandchild had recently been born, just over a pound in weight, but is doing well. The name chosen, was Madison, and I am sure he will be presented with an array of tulips in the spring, bulbs being purchased from Blom's Bulbs Melchbourne Beds.

**T Mills**

**This year's Tulip Feast will be on October 12th at Bentick Miners Welfare Hall from 2 - 6pm. The speaker will be Dr John Page from Birmingham Alpine Society who will give a talk on Species Tulips.**

**All are welcome, a buffet is available @ £4 per head, for further details contact Trevor Mills on Tel 01543 683452.**

*Below: Victor Roozon and Margaret Mills*





## TULIPOMANIA IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Dyram Park lies at the foot of a coombe in the western scarp of the Cotswolds some six miles north of Bath. It is an unlikely setting for a Dutch garden but its builder, William Blathwayt (?1649/1717) taken by all things Dutch had such created by royal gardener, George London. This was recorded, in all its, glory by Johannes Kip in 1710. Its canal, terraces, parterres survived only a short time although Neptune still stands above and alone on a grassy slope, once a cascade.

Blathwayt had become fluent in Dutch as a secretary to the Ambassador at The Hague and, subsequently, was indispensable to William of Orange. The streets of Europe were then, as now, paved with gold for politicians and civil servants. He improved his financial situation still further and, indeed, obtained the property by marrying Mary Wynter and having done so, set about creating the house and grounds.

The house came to the National Trust in 1961 having been acquired and structurally restored by the war memorial National Land Fund. It has to work for its keep and to this end, visitor footfall is encouraged by events such as summer concerts and on 26 - 30 April 2002, for the first time "Tulipomania". The house and adjoining village church were decorated and over the weekend, flower-arranging demonstrations held in the Orangery. The Restaurant too, provided a flavour of the Low Countries: Hutspot, Dutch Pea Soup, Ham Roll Ups Met Potatoes, and Bread Pudding with Custard.. Really? The Head Gardener - these have to be public relations men these days - may be it was always so - lead a walk, telling the history and plans to return to something of the shape of the original concept. Children were sent off to find and paint, pictorially that is, tulips. There were not, it may be said, that many in evidence outside. Perhaps they had all been gathered in for some splendid displays, some based on pictures by that versatile gardener, in the house.

Here, the builder's political career is again in evidence with the use of timber from what were only just then, "the colonies" in Virginia and much blue and white Delftware. This includes several "tulipieres", those fascinating vases in which tulips of tulip mania might be displayed. There are smaller three bloom styles and more spectacularly, the seven section pyramids built up

of water holding "trays" with animal head nozzles at the corners for the flowerheads. Susceptible to damage, possibly to the glaze as well as more obvious sources, they were not in use. A leaflet notes that they came, as did those at Chatsworth, from the Delft "Greek A" factory (apparently the industry moved into former breweries put out of business by English imports) of Andriaen Kocks and dated from 1690. Tulips, daffodils, chrysanthemums, strawberries and roses featured too on door furniture by John Wilkes of Birmingham - similar locks may be seen at the Treasurer's House in York.

In a long established deer park, it is a handsome house of much interest and great charm. The latter was reflected in the low-key organisation of this event, which, although publicity had not been that obvious, had the desired result with visitor numbers. Car parking off the A.46 - a bus is provided to the house - a mile south of Junction 18 of the M4 and open 23 March to 3 Nov: 12-5.30 (last admissions to house 4.45): daily except Wednesday and Thursday but at £7.90 for adults, it is not cheap.

#### **Postscript:**

*Trevor Mills recalls that there is (or was?) a tulip named for Dyrham Park. As part of the 1995 National Trust centenary celebrations there were a number of local schemes to mark the occasion. At Dyrham, volunteer stewards floated the idea of a celebratory tulip. A spectacular red and orange variety with pointed broken edged petals was selected from the beds of a Dutch grower, Trifor BV.*

*It was agreed that it should be named, commemorating the anniversary, A tribute to the House of Orange, Blathwayt, and happily linking past and present. The volunteers set up a fund to raise a thousand pounds for the registration of the name and as "Dyrham Park" it flowered for the first time in 1996. Bulbs were sold through the shop in the Park becoming a quite successful line. That is until two years ago when supplies suddenly ceased. All efforts to reinstate the flow, or to communicate, even in dutch, came to naught and the tulip was heard of no more.*

**Angela Harrington**



## Holland v China

Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to the World Championship between these two great powers.

On my right is the long and world champion country of Holland who has been for years, many hundreds, the fore runner of the cut flower and Tulip bulb producer. With all the knowledge of horticulture from many experts in this field Holland has remained the champion.

Now on my left is the new pretender for this crown, China, waiting on the wings to claim this is Yang Bin, China's richest businessman, who is waiting to challenge Holland's domination. My Yang is not alone in seeking to claim dominance to the crown, the government of the southern province is seeking to build an open air flower exchange to rival the Dutch. Helping on the way is cost, Mr Yang has access to China's cheap labour, who earn as little as £2 per day.

China's flower growing business is highly labour intensive, which means they can undercut price even after the cost of vacuum packing and air freight-ing to Europe.

Chinese tulips are grown in vast greenhouses, 100's of meters long and with no European regulations as to pesticides and fertilisers they are able to produce flowers cheaper than their competitors.

In the matter of cost some Dutch growers have been attracted to China to produce tulips for sale back home! The domestic quality of Chinese tulips is not very good, but it is only a matter of time for them to become good.

The Dutch growers moving to China are bringing the bulbs, soil, materials and designs for the growing of bulbs in the most up to date greenhouses and are hoping to export to Holland in 5 years time.

The challenge is now on, so we shall have to sit back and wait and see who receives the Championship.

In a few years time do we know from which country our bulbs are from?

**Peter Turner**

## Its in the Genes.

During the Napoleonic period there was a decline in the florists societies.

In 1816 Lichfield Florist Society was reformed, and here are the rules set down

To be adhered to by members.

Rules and Regulations

Of the

Lichfield Florist Society

Held at

Mr Mansells the Old Crown

City of Lichfield

### **Article First**

That each member of this society ( Honary Members Excepted ) shall pay Annually the sum of two shillings and sixpence - one shilling before the day appointed for the spring Meeting and one shilling and sixpence on or before the day appointed for the summer Meeting, and forfeit one shilling for non attendance on each of the afore mentioned days of Meeting.

### **Article Second**

That any Member shewing a flower shall pay one shilling and sixpence, in addition to his annual subscription, and none subscribers to pay seven shillings, and any Person shewing a flower not is own growing, shall pay for each flower so shewn, one shilling. Also any person shewing a flower with false Name, in order to obtain a second prize will not be allowed a prize at all and fined one shilling for the fund.

### **Article Third**

That the Flowers shewn in Bottles, and a Committee of Five Persons appointed by Balls to be the judges of them.

### **Article Fourth**

That the Flowers adjudged as prizes be all of different sorts.

### **Article Fifth**

That if any Gentleman finds fault with the decision of the Committee shall be find five shillings for the use of the fund.



### **Article Sixth**

That a proper person be from time to time appointed by the Committee to receive flowers and number them, place them upon the stand, and deliver a list to the Stewards, and no Person to enter the Room while they are placing, not until after they are adjudged.

### **Article Seventh**

That if any Member of this Society chooses to drink any liquor in preference to Ale, he shall pay for the same distinctly on his own Account and also pay the collection to the first ale shot only with the rest of the Company.

N.B. Melons shewn free of expence, and that Gooseberrys to be weighed before Dinner.

Lichfield 31st May 1816.

### **Rule 8 passed 7 August 1817.**

That every person showing a flower not his own growing ( not registered ) and fine paid as such on Entry according to the 2nd Article of the Society by which a prize shall be obtained shall forfeit Five Shillings to the Fund and not be allowed the amount of prize awarded.

*A name of Mr Mills appears quite frequently selected as judge of flowers it set me wondering whether balls where lottery fashion, or was he chosen when a black ball appeared. Whatever the system I only hope knowing the gender that he was not to inebriated to make a decision at the time of judging.*

## Joanna's Rich Fruit Cake Recipe

100g	dried apricots
100g	glace cherries
100g	ready made marzipan
	large orange
200g	sultanas
150g	butter ( I use unsalted)
150g	caster sugar
	eggs
200g	wholemeal flour
1tsp	baking powder
2tsp	cinnamon
	milk or water to mix to "dropping consistency"

Heat the oven to 170 deg C, 325 deg F, Gas mark 3. Line a 7 inch cake tin with greaseproof paper.

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy and then add the eggs beating well between each. Chop marzipan into small chunks, 1 inch and stir into mixture. Chop apricots, easiest with scissors, into the mixture and add the cherries. Peel off the orange zest, with an orange zester and add along with the orange juice. Add in the sultanas and mix well.

Sift the flour and the baking powder together and fold into the fruit mixture together with the cinnamon and enough milk or water to make a good soft mixture that will drop off the spoon without being too sloppy.

Spoon the mixture into the prepared baking tin and place in the heated oven for about 1 hour. Reduce the heat to 150deg C, 300 deg F and Gas mark 2, for about 1 hour 15 minutes. The cake is done when a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake and comes out clean.

Be careful not to over bake as the yummy bit about this cake is its moistness.

Leave to cool for about half an hour in the tin then turn out onto a wire rack and remove paper.

The cake can be iced or simply glazed with apricot jam and sprinkled with coffee crystal sugar.

The cooking times are very approx. as I have an Aga, so I am not sure of the timing in an ordinary oven, over to you!

**Joanna**



## Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31 July 2002

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
Subs/Donations	890.00	942.00	Insurance	112.00	104.00
Income - New Book	0.00	25.00	Postage	204.88	65.02
			Newsletter	210.82	369.63
			Printing/Stationery etc	112.15	56.60
			Bulb Distribution	51.17	68.06
Sales Table receipts	377.20	561.90	Sales Table Purchases	116.33	887.58
Profit AGM	145.57	107.73	Memoriam	30.00	
Profit Main Show	195.21	84.50	Engraving Trophies	0.00	70.00
Garden Visit	110.00		Garden Visit	110.00	
Prize Money	134.25	83.00	Prize Money	119.75	80.50
			Operating Surplus	785.13	102.74
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>1852.23</u></b>	<b><u>1804.13</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>1852.23</u></b>	<b><u>1804.13</u></b>

### Balance Sheet

Current Account			Current Account		
@ 31.7.01	1257.94	509.90	@ 31.07.02	2043.07	1257.94
Savings Account	0.00	244.77	Savings Account		0.00
Interest		0.53			
Building Society	3006.95	3319.63	Building Society	3067.24	3006.95
Interest	15.79	46.82			
Abbey National	979.00	650.15	Abbey National	639.91	979.00
Dividends	44.50	40.50			
Change in Share Value	-339.09	328.85			
Operating Surplus	785.13	102.74			
Stock Valuation at Cost			Stock Valuation at Cost		
Sales Table	943.86	350.00	Sales Table	863.17	943.86
Booklet	37.70	64.09	Booklet	0.00	37.70
Stock Change in value					
Sales Table	-80.69	593.86			
Booklet	-37.70	-26.39			
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>6613.39</u></b>	<b><u>6225.45</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>6613.39</u></b>	<b><u>6225.45</u></b>

**AGM  
October 2001**

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>		<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
Raffle	71.00	70.50	Hall Hire	24.00	38.50
Refreshments	61.00	57.60			
Plant Sales	56.60	34.00	Crockery Hire	19.03	15.87
Raffle Donation			Profit	145.57	107.73
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>188.60</u></b>	<b><u>162.10</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>188.60</u></b>	<b><u>162.10</u></b>

**English Show 18 May 2002**

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>		<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
Raffle	100.00	97.50	Hall Hire	50.00	84.00
Plant Sales	118.70	102.00	Goblets	69.44	141.00
Sale of Blooms	41.85	20.00	Gratuities	10.00	10.00
Sale of Food	64.10	100.00	Profit	195.21	84.50
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>324.65</u></b>	<b><u>319.50</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>324.65</u></b>	<b><u>319.50</u></b>

**WAKEFIELD  
&  
NORTH OF ENGLAND  
TULIP SOCIETY**

ESTABLISHED 1836



NEWSLETTER No 14  
AUTUMN 2002