

**WAKEFIELD
&
NORTH OF ENGLAND
TULIP SOCIETY**

ESTABLISHED 1836



**NEWSLETTER
NO 20
AUTUMN 2008**

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

OFFICERS 2008-2009

PRESIDENT	The Duke of Devonshire CBE
PATRONS	K N Eyre, J L Akers
HON LIFE MEMBERS	Mrs A Turner, P Turner
VICE PRESIDENTS	P Emmett, T Mills, C Marsh, T Clark, J Ollerenshaw, Dr Kate Swift, Jane Green, Bob Bingham, Anna Pavord, Wendy Akers, Sarah Akers, Anne Smales, Carole Gude, Barbara Pickering.
CHAIRMAN	M Hainsworth
HON SECRETARY	Mrs T Clements Harrogate North Yorks
Telephone	
HON TREASURER	Mr J Clements details as above except email:
COMMITTEE	J L Akers, Mrs W M Akers, J Clements, Mrs T Clements, K N Eyre, J Gibson, Mrs J Green, Mrs C Gude, Ms S Madden, T Mitchell, Ms M Murray, Mrs B Pickering, J Wainwright.
EDITOR	Mrs W M Akers
SOCIETY WEBSITE	www.tulipsociety.co.uk

Annual Subscriptions – Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2009 become due on the date of the Annual Show May 2009 and are for the sum of £5 per Member, £6 for Family Membership and £50 for Life Membership

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front cover	A Temple Newsam clock with marquetry showing several florists' flowers (<i>photo</i> James Akers)	

Editorial

A bumper crop of apples, a miserable crop of tomatoes and squash. Yorkshire did not seem like an outpost of the Mediterranean this summer. The tulips really sulked in late April and at Chelsea on 19 May I could feel chilblains coming on. Now it's October and planting time approaches and the Newsletter for 2008. I must thank all the writers of articles, some were volunteers, some were pressed men but thank you to all. Also the proofreaders Jeff Pickering and Teresa Clements (the wonders of email mean that text flows back and forth in the twinkle of an eye) and of course James who typesets, nags, cajoles and generally drags us along in his slipstream.

I must say something about James' tulip MBE. Having seen him in action after 50 years I still don't know how he does it all. The chairman has been known to hope that we might sometime have a quiet year! One of the nicest wishes among all the congratulations was a card from the Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire who hoped he had "many hours of quiet satisfaction". He will see the Queen on 10 December to receive it.

I am sure that everybody and his dog knows that Wakefield is famous for its rhubarb. Not always to its credit. I came across a twenty-four year old article from Jane Grigson in which she is extremely critical of our local food and quotes from an 18th century poem (the first and last verses follow) to prove it.

Over in Yorkshire, a farmer did dwell,
And they called 'him Yaddy Hughes, and we all know 'im well:
He keeps four servants, it in't any lie,
And 'e feeds 'em all up on 'is cowd stringy pie.

They fetched the sheep up, boiled 'er in a pot,
And they served 'er on t'table, she were reekin' 'ot;
And t'maggots crawled over 'er four inches thick,
But owd Yaddy 'ad a lad knockin' 'em off wi' a stick.

We live in the 'Rhubarb Triangle' in Wrenthorpe and I can tell you the tender pink stalks of forced rhubarb that appear in spring are miles away from "cowd stringy pie". I am getting round to saying how proud I was to see the feast at the AGM and the magnificent array of baking by members.

Wendy Akers

Chairman's Report

The death of our patron, Victor Roozen, saddened all the many Society members who knew him. Victor was a generous, warm-hearted gentleman. Those who heard Keith Eyre's moving tribute to Victor at our AGM were left in no doubts on the vital contributions he made to our Society. Like others I remember this distinguished figure attending our shows accompanied by his daughter and enjoying together an informed and enthusiastic appreciation of our tulips. After the tragic early death of his daughter Victor returned almost yearly to support and encourage our efforts with the benefit of his deep understanding.

Victor's career as a bulb dealer appeared enviable to me with its extensive European journeys. He himself had no such illusions and regretted the personal and family cost of his long absences from home. The loss of both his wife Eva and his daughter Gina were heavy blows which Victor bore with fortitude. His interest in our Society was undiminished. He was grateful for the friendship of our members, the Eyres, Akers, Mills and Royles families and to Bill Tear with whom he attended Remembrance Day parades in London. The English countryside, churches and fine buildings and parkland were also a source of deep satisfaction to him.

Victor's passion for tulips was paralleled by a fascination for Marco Polo, begun in his wartime youth. Quite a few members were inveigled into searching for an elusive second volume of a Polo biography! But tulips were his primary passion and particularly our breeders. He chided some of us – gently and good humouredly – by distinguishing between growers and raisers. Most of us fall into the former category. The efforts of members who carefully raised new seedlings earned his praises. He recognized that our responsibility to preserve our precious stock must be accompanied by efforts to augment it.

After a serious stroke, Victor spent his last years in the St Berardus care home at Sassenheim. Those who saw him there were deeply impressed by the kindly and courteous welcome Victor offered despite his disabilities. Inspiring too were the superb standards of the facilities and care offered at Sassenheim, the likes of which I have never seen in this country.

Victor was missed and will be missed. He was yet another Dutchman who made a difference. We must be thankful for that.

Despite the loss of our Patron, the year has brought much to interest and delight us. Our newsletter is an enduring pleasure. The high standard of its production and the range and quality of its contents are a credit to our contributors and editors. I enjoy re-reading articles throughout the year. They so obviously reveal the appreciative and sensitive eyes behind them. They do act as a great motivator.

Nonetheless I allowed the World Tulip Summit to pass me by. I now wish I had made the effort to attend. I allowed my scepticism to overcome what should have

been an obligation. We were well represented directly and indirectly by Anna Pavord and James who featured prominently and by Linda Chapman and Barbara Pickering, both of whom were perceptive enough to attend and all are owed our thanks. It is difficult to judge how much commitment is due to enterprises that have interests that appear close to our own.

Similarly we are uncertain as to our continued support of the York Florists' Bishopthorpe Show. Despite the enthusiastic support of Arthur Robinson it is becoming clear that we are stretched to the limit during our brief but brilliant season.

In June we enjoyed a joint visit to Temple Newsam with the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. This welcome initiative was organised by Penelope Dawson-Brown. Not only did we marvel at the splendours of the house but enjoyed a detailed personal tour of the gardens by the head gardener. We were impressed by his efforts and the huge demands placed on those with the custody of such essential yet vulnerable aspects of our heritage.

Our AGM began with our silent thoughts of Victor Roozen, followed by Keith's tribute. Thankfulness and pleasure filled the day. It is simply wonderful to see members helping in so many ways just as they do at the show and throughout the year. I long to be able to spend more time meeting members, browsing the library and stocking up from the stalls. The habitual generosity of members made the raffle stall look like an RHS display and a harvest festival. John Snocken's attempt to present himself as a grumpy old florist failed utterly. We had waited two years for his talk and it was worth it. His efforts at recovering and growing the traditional florist flowers – all of them – caused surprise and admiration. I do not think I have ever entered a class at our show without the benefit of his sound advice which like that from other successful showers comes unstintingly. I look forward to reading those key historic books he has given the Society.

The Society's business agenda was as rewarding and exciting as our show. The meeting congratulated James Akers on his well deserved public honour. I am sure that the whole Society will share the pleasure of the award. James acknowledged his indebtedness to Wendy, a partner in every sense.

In recognition of his work, James was appointed a Patron of the Society, an honour he was as pleased to accept as we were to award. For her loyal, energetic and thoughtful service to the Society, Barbara Pickering became a Vice President. We hope to catch a glimpse of her and her Cosmos trial on Gardeners' World's Christmas edition.

Jane Green was welcomed onto our committee. As a long standing third generation member she will bring her experience and fine judgment, both of which will be much appreciated.

Our treasurer, Jason Clements, offered a reassuring account of our sound financial state – a regrettably rare condition among voluntary associations. We were wise to put our money on him when we appointed him Treasurer last year. Following that

successful bet we went for another certainty by appointing Teresa Clements as our Secretary. Whilst we all share the sense of relief given by Jason and Teresa's acceptance of these key roles we appreciate what demanding tasks they have taken on. It was with gratitude and pleasure that the Society welcomed this gifted couple's appointments. I can assure them that, like those other committed partnerships that have been such a feature of the Society, they can be confident of the total support of the committee and our membership. And happily these earlier partnerships are still with us and still supporting us.

I was not alone in fearing that our 173rd show would not equal the previous year's success. There are always causes for anxiety! However, despite uncertainties, members' efforts made the show a splendid success. Especially pleasing was the sight of so many newer members entering the novice and extra open classes. These entries made an impact beyond anyone's expectations.

I arrived at the show with the usual mixture of pessimism sprinkled thinly with hope. My memory is short if it is anything. I had almost forgotten the dark shame of disqualification from Class 9 in the 172nd Show. (Some members with more retentive memories than mine were kind enough to remind me of what I suppressed deep into my subconscious). This year I counted the petals! I could again enter Class 9! Then I had a characteristically brilliant notion – I had sufficient blooms – why not place two entries in Class 11? The Local Silver Challenge Cup? With this master stroke I would expunge the stigma of '07, confound my critics and place before the judges an overwhelming claim to distinction.

It is painful recalling the looks and gasps of incredulity and horror that followed this ignominious act. I cannot recall the details of my abject retreat. Seeing my total confusion Jane Green took pity on me and with a few deft adjustments transformed my illicit entry into two legitimate ones for Classes 14 and 16 – possibilities that had quite escaped my notice.

Despite my conspicuous display of ignorance, I did win the Needham Cup. I am always surprised and very pleased with a win, but the circumstances were unfortunately so tainted that it has taken me some months to begin to appreciate both my good luck and the fine cup. It has lost some of the Pickering polish but it has such an attractive lustre and I do enjoy gazing at it and thinking of those who have enjoyed it before me and wondering who will enjoy it in the future. I can imagine the pleasure of other prize winners. And for all of us there is the prospect of a vase of English Florist Tulips.

I am grateful to everyone for their support this year and if I am allowed a further personal note I'm grateful to my daughters who have presented us with two lovely grand daughters – Salma and Tulip.

Malcolm Hainsworth

Minutes of 2008 AGM

The meeting was held at Wrenthorpe Village Hall on 4 October 2008 starting at 12 noon.

Chairman's welcoming remarks

Malcolm Hainsworth welcomed members to the meeting and commented on the great distance travelled by many to attend.

The death of Victor Roozen, patron of the society, was reported. MH remarked that he was a loyal, diligent and concerned contributor to the society over many years. The meeting observed a minute's silence in his memory.

MH invited Keith Eyre, patron of the society, to pay tribute to Victor. Keith explained how Victor had provided support in various ways, by association with the Hortus Bulborum, by providing the Gina Roozen cup to encourage novice growers and by giving his time, expertise and enthusiasm. For all of these, the society is indebted to him.

Apologies for absence were received from many members including; Christine Burn, Mr A Harper, Mr & Mrs Swales, Mrs M D Green, Mike Garrett, Pamela Cooksey, Brian Cookson, Margaret Cooper, Mrs Butlin, Eric Wells, Douglas Kydd, Patrick and Carol Smith

Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM had been published in the newsletter, were taken as read and approved.

Matters arising

James Akers commented on the discussion at the last AGM about archiving the society's documents for safe keeping at York University, he intended to update the members on this in the Secretary's report.

Chairman's Report

MH reflected on some high points throughout the year for the society.

1. The newsletter had been of a particularly high standard, both in content and quality.
2. The inclusion of James Akers in the Queen's Birthday Honours list and his award of an MBE.

This was followed by applause from the members and a further comment from MH that the hard work of Wendy Akers should also be recognised, more applause.

3. The visit to Temple Newsam in Leeds together with the Yorkshire Garden Trust, which was enjoyed by many members.
4. The Florists' Symposium at Chatsworth organised by Bob Taylor and Terry Mitchell with over 30 Tulip Society members among the 70 plus attendees.
5. The publication of a book, *The Morville Hours*, by Kate Swift, a longstanding member of the society, and being able to listen to her reading it on Radio Four as a Book of the Week.

MH thanked the committee for their work for the society over the year and thanked Teresa and Jason Clements in their new roles as Membership Secretary and Treasurer.

Secretary's Report

The report is published in full later in this newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

The report is published in full later in this newsletter.

Keith Eyre proposed the accounts were adopted.

Sylvia Roberts seconded the proposal.

Election of Officers

President - The Duke of Devonshire – Proposed as re-elected by Malcolm Hainsworth

Agreed by acclaim

Patron - Keith Eyre

Patron – Vacancy due to death of Victor Roozen, James Akers proposed by Malcolm Hainsworth.

Agreed by acclaim

Vice Presidents – J L Akers, Mrs W M Akers, R Bingham, T Clark, P Emmett, Mrs J Green, Mrs C Gude, T Mills, J Ollerenshaw, Mrs Anna Pavord, Mrs A Smales, Dr A K Swift, Mrs S Wainwright,

The committee proposed Mrs Barbara Pickering as a Vice President.

Agreed by acclaim.

Chairman - Malcolm Hainsworth, re-elected

Secretary - James Akers retired as Secretary

Teresa Clements proposed by James Akers

Agreed by acclaim

Treasurer - Jason Clements, re-elected

Editor - Mrs W M Akers, re-elected

Auditor - Mr Ivor Fox, re-elected

Membership Secretary - Teresa Clements, This post subsumed back into post of Secretary.

Committee - Retiring member - Sylvia Madden and two other members. All were re-elected and in addition Jane Green proposed by James Akers and seconded by Carol Gude.

Show dates

Annual Show Saturday 16th May 2009, to be held at Normanton Community Centre
Note that the timing of the show may change slightly in 2009 so it can end a little earlier in order to transport it to the Keukenhof.

James Akers suggested that the society write to Wakefield Council concerning the problem the society has in finding a venue for the show.

Other show dates to be published in the newsletter.

The AGM in 2009 will be in Wrenthorpe Village hall on the 3 October 2009.

Any Other Business

Malcolm Hainsworth thanked members for the fine show of raffle prizes.

There was a reminder that five bulbs are provided free of charge by Miniature Bulbs UK to all members attending the AGM; there will be a class in the Annual Show for these bulbs so members were encouraged to take them and grow them on and bring them back to the show.

Meeting closed 1:10pm for lunch.

Secretary's Report

The committee met twice during the year, once in preparation for the show season and once to review the year's events, minutes of these meetings are available for anyone wanting to see them.

The rearrangement of the committee had worked well and having a membership secretary had certainly reduced the load on the secretary.

Shows

The late season in spring caused a low number of entries for the Harrogate Spring Flower Show. There was not a single entry in the Tulip Championship of Great Britain where an entry consists of three vases each containing nine flowers of a single variety of tulip. In previous years there had been as many as thirteen entries in this class, thirty-nine vases in total on the bench. In the second class, a vase of nine tulips of a single variety, there had only been two entries. This class has been known to have as many as twenty entries in previous years. Overall, there were around fifty

fewer vases of tulips on the bench this year so entries were significantly down. The only classes to benefit from the late season were the small and species tulip classes as these varieties were in bloom for the show whereas in previous years they are usually over by show time.

There were fears that the Annual Show at Normanton would be equally disappointing but that turned out not to be the case.

The RHS show at Wisley was reported to be one of their best but nobody from the North of England showed any blooms.

Members who have won cups and silverware as prizes should return them to the society for engraving, and not have them engraved themselves. This ensures they are done correctly and at the society's expense.

Over the years the society's funds have grown. We have benefited from members and others being generous with their time and talents as well as donations which means that so far we have avoided having to raise the membership fees or ask for money. This is a fortunate situation to be in and we appreciate everyone's contributions. As a result we have been able to concentrate on the tulips rather than worrying about administration and the society has flourished.

Bulb distribution – Bulbs are donated, not sold. Members wanting bulbs should ask for them and should try to specify particular varieties.

Keukenhof

Next year, 2009, is the sixtieth anniversary of the reopening of the Keukenhof after the war. The society has been asked if we will put on a display at the Keukenhof. Taking the the Annual Show on May 16th 2009 as we used to do to Dudmaston is probably the best option. This would be the last week of the Keukenhof's open season and the proposal is to transport the blooms in crates by car to catch the 9pm sailing from Hull to Rotterdam. All members are welcome to travel to the Keukenhof and see our show featured as part of their celebrations.

I was a speaker at the Tulip Summit 2008, held in Spalding this year, which was attended by some society members. The speakers were excellent but the event was poorly attended, possibly due to the high cost of the tickets.

I am retiring from the post of Secretary, but will remain on the committee and help out in whatever way I can. There are many things I still want to do on behalf of the society.

- Sorting through a great number of documents to be archived by York University.
- Making much of this available to members by converting the old newsletters to a pdf format and saving them to disc, either CD or DVD, together with relevant newspaper and magazine articles, features from Gardeners' World and Channel 4 News TV programmes and scanned pictures. The discs could be provided to members for a donation to the society.

The award of the MBE came as a great surprise. I was particularly happy to know that I had been nominated by the society in appreciation of my contribution over the years. I would like to acknowledge the support I have had from Wendy and the society members, particularly Keith Eyre, Jane Green and all the committee.

James Akers

Treasurer's Report

I have now been the Society's Treasurer for a full year, and I can confirm that there is more to the apparently simple task of adding up a few columns of figures than meets the eye. So the accounts presented here are not as tidy as I would like, but after some juggling and head-scratching, they do at least add up.

Overall, I am pleased to report that the Society's finances remain healthy; the balances in both current and savings accounts are higher than last year, and our stock holding has even seen a modest increase (though I might not be able to say the same next year).

The overall operating surplus was £148.27. Whilst any surplus is welcome, it would be inappropriate for a non-commercial Society like ours to make a huge profit, so I am almost glad that it is no higher.

The level of subscriptions this year is particularly cheering, not only for the income itself, but also as an indicator of the level of active membership. In fact we have had 21 new members in 2008. This figure also conceals the generosity of many members who pay more than their due in subscriptions – for which we are very grateful.

Although insurance costs continue to rise, the apparent doubling of this year's costs against last year's is not as bad as it looks: I unwittingly paid the 2008-09 public liability insurance early, so two payments appear in the 2007/08 accounts.

Another piece of untidiness is the large sum under 'Monies owing'. These are various payments made from his own pocket by James from 2007/08, and even 2006/07, which we have only recently been able to settle. In future, I shall insist that our creditors are paid promptly whether they wish to be or not !

Finally, an explanation of the sudden drop in value of Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) stock. Following the successful exhibition there last year, this stock comprised a number of pictures and exhibition catalogues. The pictures were auctioned at the 2007 AGM (realising the proceeds shown as YSP picture sales) and the remaining catalogues were transferred to our sales table stock.

So, in summary, a good year financially as well as horticulturally, and you can rest assured that I don't expect to seek an increase in subscriptions any time soon !

Jason Clements

James and Wendy Akers

On the resignation of James as Secretary, the committee wished to record its appreciation for his massive contribution to the Society. It is impossible to separate our thanks to him from those equally due to Wendy. We know that she will share our tribute in both senses.

James has been associated with English Florists' Tulips for most of his life and has actively grown and shown them for over forty years. For over thirty of these years he has served as an officer or committee member of the Society. To every office he has brought his diligence, commitment and flair. His extraordinary efforts have resulted in national and international recognition of our Society and its objectives. For well over a decade he has served as Tulip Representative on the Daffodil and Tulip Committee of the RHS. In this capacity he is properly regarded as the authority on the English Florist Tulips.

Through serious research he has recovered much of the history of our Society, its flower, and that flower's role in the understanding of plant pathology. His published articles, informative handbooks and editorial responsibilities have provided a scholarly base for continued work on our floricultural heritage. James has shared his knowledge freely and generously with both international conferences and local garden enthusiasts.

The committee knows that it is expressing the feelings of the entire Society in thanking both James and Wendy for all they have done for us and their unflinching kindness, hospitality and patience. We admire them not only for their remarkable abilities, but also for their extraordinary tolerance of the challenging behaviour occasionally but only briefly exhibited by fellow florists. Above all, we think they are simply wonderful people – who incidentally have raised, grown and shown some of the loveliest flowers. We are as proud to be associated with them as we are to record our feelings for them here.

Victor Roozen

I would like to say a few words about our late Patron, Victor Roozen.

Some of you may know that he was a Bulb Agent, buying and selling mainly tulip bulbs from his base in the Netherlands. He would travel to Italy, Austria, Southern Germany, and Switzerland gaining his orders. Back home in the Netherlands he would then buy his bulbs and make up the orders in a warehouse next to his home in Hillegom where he lived with his wife and children, Gina and Piet.

It was in 1977 that Victor first came to Wakefield with his daughter Gina to visit our Annual Show and see the English Florists' Tulip. He had only read about our English Florists' tulips and was under the impression that they were almost extinct. So it was a great surprise to him to find tables full of the blooms in all their glory. He was so excited by his visit that he expressed a desire to help in the preservation of the breeder tulips. To this end he offered to present a Silver Cup to encourage the Novice growers. The following year, the Gina Roozen Cup was presented for the first time for three breeders.

As Secretary of the Society at the time, I corresponded with Victor over the coming years and he visited the Show on many occasions. He expressed the wish to present a collection of English Florists' Bulbs to the Hortus Bulborum. It was decided between us that I would send Victor breeder tulips for him to grow in his own garden and enable him to select out the very best, discarding any broken bulbs. When he had gathered a collection of about thirty bulbs of each variety (which took many years to amass) he was then able to present them to his friend the Curator at the Hortus Bulborum.

The Society would receive breeder tulip bulbs back from the Hortus Bulborum over the next few years. Unfortunately, Victor's friend the Curator died, and the supply to us became difficult.

For his work in establishing the collection of breeder tulips in the Netherlands, our Society made Victor a Patron. Although Victor suffered a stroke some years ago and was limited to his care home, our Society was always in his thoughts

Keith Eyre



Victor in 1993
(photo Malcolm Hainsworth)

Library Report **Marguerite Murray**

The number of books in the library is gradually increasing, and this year has seen a number of generous donations of books, some of which are a seminal research resource for anyone interested in florists' flowers. The most recent additions are listed below. A full list of the contents of the library can be obtained by writing to The Librarian, 14 St. John's Ave. Wakefield WF1 2RE. Please remember to return books when you have finished with them as other members may be waiting.

Bennett, Chlöe	The Triumphant Image: Tudor and Stuart portraits at Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich
Boulting-Hall, Patricia	Bentley-Barlow-Cross Connection and Appendix
Clusius, Carolus	A Treatise on Tulips
De Bray, Lys	The Art of Botanical Illustration
Hanmer, Thomas	The Garden Book of Sir Thomas Hanmer
King, Michael	Gardening with Tulips
Maddock, James	The Florists' Directory
Sladden, John & Dean, William	Gossip of the Garden, a handbook for the florist and suburban horticulturist (1859,1860,1861)
Slater, John	The Amateur Florists' Guide

Hello from the new Secretary **Teresa Clements**

There wasn't a lot of fuss made at the AGM last week when James Akers stepped down as Secretary after many years of sterling service on behalf of the society. I don't think there is much chance of him quietly retreating into the background, it's just not his style and we should be very grateful for that!

All the same, it did feel like the end of an era, and for me the momentous beginning of a new one. I haven't had to fight off a lot of competition to take on the role of Secretary but despite feeling slightly daunted by the position I also see it as a significant honour. There haven't been many Secretaries for such a long established society and what a series of worthy characters I have to follow.

One of the things James said at the AGM impressed me a great deal, the society has always been about tulips first and foremost, not membership or money or any of the other aspects of being part of a society. We are very fortunate in that we have the means to focus on the English Florists' tulips and that membership and financial

matters have not been a problem or distraction and long may that last. The tulips themselves are the whole point of having the society and we should be determined not to lose sight of that.

Over the past year I have dealt with some of the administrative work on James' behalf and have met many members at shows and other events. I feel I know some members by sight and some only by name from telephone conversations, emails and letters. It is always very satisfying to put a face to a well known name. So, I hope you will bear with me while I gradually pick up on all the tasks that go with the job and get to know you all, I have a very hard act to follow. I also want to say thank you for trusting me with such an important job, I will do my best and work with the committee and other officers to keep the society in the happy and healthy state it is in now.

Keep growing those tulips, I'll see you at the show!

Photographic Competition

Among the most popular items on our sales table are the greetings cards. Over the years our members and visitors to shows will have seen and bought the same cards time and time again so this competition is aimed at providing some new images of tulips which will be suitable to make into greetings cards.

To give everyone a chance there will be two categories, one for English Florists' Tulips and the other for any other kind of tulip. The closing date for entries will be the end of July 2009, this will give people chance to take photographs in Spring 2009.

You can send printed images in the post or send digital images by email to Teresa Clements, contact details at the end of this item.

The cards will be A6 size, that is the equivalent of one quarter of the A4 sheet we are used to receiving as a standard official letter, measuring 105mm x 148mm. It would help if any photographs were as near to these proportions as possible. For digital photographs the same overall proportions apply but the resolution of the camera would need to be set to give an image file with a minimum size of 500KB. Most cameras now produce jpg files which are much larger than this so please keep your files below a maximum of 2MB, preferably in the range 1MB to 1.5MB.

Many of us love taking photographs of tulips but it is hard to predict how many people are likely to enter them for the competition, so, in order that our mailbox doesn't get completely swamped with entries, there will be a limit of three photographs per person per category and the competition will be restricted to members and their families only.

The plan is to produce prints of the entries to be displayed at the AGM in October 2009 so those attending can vote for the winners in each category which will then be made into cards for the society's sales table.

So far, the competition is being held for the fun of entering and the glory of winning, but there should be a suitable prize in place to add a little more incentive come judgement day. Good Luck!

Send your entries to;

t.clements@zetnet.co.uk

Teresa Clements, Priory Lodge, Leeds Road, Harrogate, North Yorks. HG2 8AA

E-Mail Addresses

These days many of us have a computer with an e-mail account and it would be useful for the society to be able to contact you in this way.

If we could send out at least a proportion of our letters electronically, there would be a saving in postage and, just as importantly, the letters would arrive more quickly and not be at risk of being lost somewhere in a Royal Mail sorting office.

So, if you have an e-mail account, and would like to get letters from us that way, please let me know by sending a quick message to **t.clements@zetnet.co.uk** You will also need to let us know if you have changed your email address since you joined the society.

There's no obligation to do this – we'll continue to send out letters to those who don't choose to go digital, and of course everyone will get the yearbook sent in the usual printed format. Also, we will be careful not to pass your details on to anyone else without asking your permission first.

173rd Annual Show

James Akers

After the disappointment of Harrogate, it was a great relief once again to see the filled tables at Normanton Community Centre on 10 May. Whatever the season, our showing members continue to amaze us by producing their flowers on time.

In the Dutch classes, the five classes were won by five different exhibitors with five further exhibitors gaining second or third places; quite remarkable since there is no limit on the number of entries by an exhibitor! The judge Keith Eyre was to be commended for his perseverance; it cannot be easy to judge 22 vases of 6 tulips, knowing that when you have finished that you will be faced with 36 vases of 3. His choice of the best vase in this section, although it came as a surprise to Trevor Myers, was universally acclaimed; the 'Elegant Lady' were very elegant.

In the 19th century it was the practice at our Annual Show to take the premier blooms into a side room and record their individual qualities in a book. We only know of this because it is mentioned in the report of a show in one of the gardening periodicals of the time. Unfortunately the book disappeared, along with the minute books prior to 1907, so we probably will never know when this started nor the relative values of the flowers shown at that time. In this day and age where everyone seems to have a digital camera, I feel that the society should give some thought to photographing all the premier blooms each year, together with individual classes and newly-broken flowers. It is so disappointing that I am unable to print a single photograph to accompany this report.

One of the most surprising features of this year's show was the imbalance between the number of entries in the breeder and broken classes. Does this suggest that breeders flower later than breaks? Judy Baker was the only exhibitor able to enter the twelve, nine and six breeder classes. However, examination of the flowers that she showed in the first two of these classes is enlightening; a third of the varieties, 7 of the 21, were ones which have been raised by the current generation of hybridizers. Without new breeders being regularly raised, the English Florists' Tulip would have disappeared long ago. It cannot be said too often; we are a showing society not a preservation society.

Judy's run of breeder success was broken by Barbara Pickering who won the three and Beryl Royles the one breeder with Malcolm Hainsworth second; the latter class again encouraging in that both their flowers were seedlings.

Malcolm achieved his long-time goal by winning the Needham Memorial Cup for the first time, joining a very short list of current exhibitors who have done so. John Snocken was second and Judy third. Three entries in this class in such a late season is also encouraging. The same three exhibitors did battle for the Local Challenge Cup, won by John Snocken. An interesting flower in the third placed entry

was Judy's 'Judy Baker' feather. Named after her, and distributed among members by its raiser John Wainwright, this variety seems to break well, both as a flame and feather, and when more widely available is an obvious one to grow for the Stages Cup.

I had not expected to be able to exhibit with a week to go to the show, and in the end had only two flames in flower on the beds of breaks, both early varieties, 'Lord Stanley' and 'Wakefield', . However, much to my surprise, from the breeder bed I was able to pick four newly-broken flowers which were, with the two flames, judged good enough to win the Silver Challenge Cup for six rectified. That 'Aonius', another new breeder, breaks well is a bonus, and although first time breaks often never produce another good flower, the three seedling breaks also looked promising. Likewise, the 'James Wainwright' shown by Judy in the three flames class and the two broken seedlings winning the pair of flames for Beryl Royles, could give us a greater selection for the future. These are some of the flowers that we should have photographed.

Marjorie Walkington demonstrated her skill with spade as well as paintbrush by winning the Novice Cup, though Roy Tetley ran her close. Trevor Myers won the goblet for most points in the Extra Open Section.

The most senior growers in the society have often been accused in the past, by ones who should know better, of keeping the best tulips for themselves and distributing the worst. Again this has been proved wrong in that the overall Premier Bloom and Premier Flame, 'Akers Flame' together with Premier Breeder 'James Wild' both came from the Novice Section.

The society was pleased to welcome Jan Pennings as opener of this year's show. Jan is a major bulb grower in Holland, particularly of hyacinths, is a member of the RHS Daffodil and Tulip Committee, and a Vice-President of the world-famous Keukenhof. It is hoped that the society will be able to transport overnight the whole of the 2009 show to Holland for display at the Keukenhof as part of the Gardens 60th Anniversary celebration.

Results

Vase classes

Class 1 The John Hardman Memorial Class Vase of 18 Tulips (One variety not English Florist) (4) 1. Ken Bacon (Sutton-in-Ashfield): Maureen 2. Ken Bacon: Roi du Midi 3. Ken Bacon: Toyota

Class 2 Vase of 12 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (5) 1. Barbara Pickering (Newmillerdam): Belle du Monde 2. Ken Bacon: La Cortine 3. Teresa Clements (Harrogate): Jan Reus

Class 3 Vase of 6 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (22) 1. Chris Bone (New Mill): Maureen 2. Bob Bingham (Wakefield): Marit 3. Ken Bacon: Camargue

Class 4 Vase of 3 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florists') (36) 1. Trevor Myers (Wilmslow): Elegant Lady 2. Ken Bacon: Maureen 3. Wendy Akers (Wrenthorpe): World's Favourite (Sport)

Class 4A (10) 1. Valerie Eyre (South Cave): 2. Jean Wyatt (Barnsley): 3. Jean Higginson (Menston):

Class 5 Vase of 12 English Florists' Tulips (1) 1. Not awarded 2. Not awarded 3. Margaret Cooper (York): Not named

Class 6 Vase of 9 English Florists' Tulips (1) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth (York): Mabel

Class 7 Vase of 6 English Florists' Tulips (2) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley 2. Teresa Clements: Various

Open classes

Class 8 NORMAN EYRE MEMORIAL GOBLET Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties) (1) 1. Judy Baker (Hitcham, Suffolk): Columbine, Argyre, Bessie, Music, L92-19, Juliet, Rosie Wainwright, Mabel, Goldfinder, Lord Stanley, Sam Barlow, Deryn Roberts

Class 9 NEEDHAM MEMORIAL CUP Stand of 12 rectified English Florists' Tulips (all dissimilar) (3) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley Fe, James Wild Fe, James Wild Fl, Sir J Paxton Fl, Mabel Fe, Unknown Fe, Mabel Fl, Wakefield Fl, Habit de Noce Fe, Adonis Fe, Columbine Fl, Agbrigg Fl 2. John Snocken (Bridgnorth): Constable Burton Fl, John Hardman Fl, Agbrigg Fe, Lady R Labouchere Fe, Akers Fl, Wakefield Fl, Julia Farnese Fe, Wakefield Fe, Sir J Paxton Fl, Lord Stanley Fl, James Wild Fe, Royal Sovereign Fe 3. Judy Baker: John Hardman Fl, Columbine Fl, Adonis Fe, Agbrigg Fe, Ruth Duthie Fl, Mabel Fl, Juliet Fe, Wakefield Fe, Lord F Cavendish Fl, Lord Stanley Fl, Sam Barlow Fe, Royal Sovereign Fe

Class 10 ROYLES JUBILEE CUP Stand of 9 Breeders (different varieties) (1) 1. Judy Baker: James Wainwright, Music, T G Breeder, Rosie Wainwright, Hubert Calvert, Mabel, Deryn Roberts, Goldfinder, Nectar

Class 11 LOCAL SILVER CHALLENGE CUP Stand of 9 English Florists' Tulips (all dissimilar) (3) 1. John Snocken: Wendy Akers Br, Columbine Fl, Agbrigg Fe, Mabel Br, Akers Fl, Julia Farnese Fe, Airey Br, Lord Stanley Fl, James Wild Fe 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley Br, Lord Stanley Fl, Lord Stanley Fe, Juliet Br, Mabel Fl, Julia Farnese Fe, Albert Tear Br, Columbine Fl, Adonis Fe 3. Judy Baker: Columbine Br, Bessie Fl, Rory McEwen Fe, Mabel Br, Wakefield Fl, Judy Baker Fe, Goldfinder Br, Lord F Cavendish Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe

Class 12 SILVER CHALLENGE CUP Stand of 6 rectified English Florists' Tulips (3) 1. James Akers (Wrenthorpe): JW L92-1 Fl, JW L92-2B Fe, Wakefield Fl, Aonius Fe, Lord Stanley Fl, JW 05/6 Fe 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley Fl, James Wild Fe, Mabel Fl, Unknown Fe, Bessie Fl, Columbine Fe 3. Judy Baker: Columbine Fl, Habit de Noce Fe, Mabel Fl, Ruth Duthie Fe, James Wild Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe

Class 13 THE G.S.HUNTER MEMORIAL CUP Stand of 6 Breeders (1) 1. Judy Baker: Bessie, Music, Hubert Calvert, Mabel, James Wild, Goldfinder

Class 14 STAGES CUP Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (4) 1. John Snocken: Lord Stanley Br, Lord Stanley Fl, Lord Stanley Fe 2. Barbara Pickering: Argyre Br, Lord Stanley Fl, Lord Stanley Fe 3. Judy Baker: James Wild Br, James Wild Fl, James Wild Fe

Class 15 SILVER PLATE Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (5) 1. Barbara Pickering: Wendy Akers, Juliet, Goldfinder 2. John Snocken: Columbine, Mabel, Sam Barlow 3. Judy Baker: Columbine, Hubert Calvert, Goldfinder

Class 16 Three Flamed (3) 1. Marjorie Walkington (York): Columbine, Julia Farnese, Lord Stanley 2. Judy Baker: James Wainwright, Mabel, Lord F Cavendish 3. Not awarded

Class 17 Three Feathered (3) 1. John Snocken: Adonis, Wakefield, James Wild 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley, Wakefield, Adonis 3. Judy Baker: Habit de Noce, Wakefield, Lord F Cavendish

Class 18 Pair of Flamed (7) 1. Beryl Royles (North Wales): S33 S5, S33 S55 2. Barbara Pickering: Wakefield, Lord F Cavendish 3. Judy Baker: Bessie, Lord Stanley

Class 19 Pair of Feathered (3) 1. Judy Baker: Adonis, Wakefield 2. James Akers: McWH1, Adonis 3. John Snocken: Adonis, Lord Stanley

Class 20 One Breeder (10) 1. Beryl Royles: S45 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: NC2 3. Barbara Pickering: Unknown

Class 21 One Flamed (9) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Sir J Paxton 2. Judy Baker: Dr Hardy 3. Jenny Orrell (Wrenthorpe): Wakefield

Class 22 One Feathered (4) 1. Jenny Orrell: Wakefield 2. Marjorie Walkington: Lord Stanley 3. Barbara Pickering: Lord F Cavendish

Class 23 SEEDLING CUP One Seedling Breeder or Rectified raised by the exhibitor (2) 1. Beryl Royles: 527 2. Not recorded

Class 24 Three Seedling Breeders (one from each colour class) (0)

Novice classes

Class 25 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (2) 1. Marjorie Walkington (York): Mabel Br, Akers Fl, Wakefield Fe 2. Bob Taylor (Baildon): Hubert Calvert Br, Akers Fl, Wakefield Fe

Class 26 One Breeder (20) 1. Roy Tetley (Keithley): James Wild 2. Marjorie Walkington: Utopia 3. Teresa Clements: Gloria

Class 27 One Flamed (12) 1. Marjorie Walkington: Lord Stanley 2. Roy Tetley: Unknown byb 3. John Thompson (Morley): Lord Stanley

Class 28 One Feathered (3) 1. Marjorie Walkington: Wakefield 2. Margaret Cooper (York): Lord Stanley 3. Don Palmer (Kent): Sam Barlow

Class 29 THE GINA ROOZEN CUP Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (5) 1. Roy Tetley: James Wild, James Wainwright, Wendy Akers 2. Trevor Myers (Wilmslow): Goldfinder, Mabel, Wendy Akers 3. Bob Taylor: Juliet, Albert Tear, James Wild

Extra Open classes

Class 30 One Breeder (8) 1. Trevor Myers: Goldfinder 2. Chris Bone: Music 3. Marjorie Walkington: Mabel

Class 31 One Flamed (4) 1. Marjorie Walkington: Wakefield 2. Trevor Myers: Akers 3. Not awarded

Class 32 One Feathered (3) 1. Trevor Myers: Wakefield 2. Marjorie Walkington: Lord Stanley 3. Not awarded

Class 33 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (2) 1. Bob Taylor: James Wild Br, Lord F Cavendish Fl, Lord Stanley Fe 2. Trevor Myers: Hubert Calvert Br, Akers Fl, Mabel Fe

Premier Blooms

Albert Tear Memorial Trophy
(Overall Premier Bloom)

Bob Taylor Akers Flame

Best Flame in Show

Bob Taylor Akers Flame

The Dudmaston Plate
(Best Bloom in Novice Classes)

Bob Taylor Akers Flame

Best Feather in Show

John Snocken James Wild

Best Breeder in Show

Roy Tetley James Wild

Cochrane of Cults Vase
(Best Bloom Classes 20 - 22)

Beryl Royles S45 Breeder

Stan Knowles Cup
(Best Bloom in Extra Open)

Trevor Myers Goldfinder Breeder

Peter Emmett Trophy
(Best Exhibit Classes 2 - 4)

Trevor Myers Elegant Lady

Harrogate Spring Flower Show

James Akers

Because of the late season this was the worst show that we have staged at Harrogate, with no entries in the Tulip Championship of Great Britain. However, although the entries of standard tulips were poor, the small and species tulips were good and attracted a lot of public attention.

Results

Class 1 3 Vases of 9 Tulips, 3 different varieties, one per vase (0)

Class 2 9 tulips - one variety (2) 1. Teresa Clements (Harrogate): Negrita 2. Teresa Clements: Corsage

Class 3 3 Lily flowered tulips, one variety (2) 1. Jenny Orrell (Wrenthorpe): Ballade 2. Teresa Clements: Queen of Sheba

Class 4 3 Parrot flowered tulips, one variety (1) 1. Teresa Clements: Rococo

Class 5 3 Double flowered tulips, one variety (2) 1. Joan Russell (Bromsgrove): Angelique 2. Teresa Clements: Monte Carlo

Class 6 3 Fringed tulips, one variety (0)

Class 7 3 Yellow flowered tulips, one variety (5) 1. Paul Payne (Norwich): Golden Parade 2. Teresa Clements: Strong Gold 3. Jenny Orrell: Oxford

Class 8 3 White flowered tulips, one variety (2) 1. Barbara Pickering (Newmillerdam): Purissima 2. Not awarded 3. Not awarded

Class 9 3 Pink or Red flowered tulips, one variety (7) 1. Ken Bacon (Sutton in Ashfield): World's Favourite 2. Jenny Orrell: World's Favourite 3. H.Fogg (Doncaster): Vivex

Class 10 3 tulips any other colour, one variety (10) 1. Paul Payne: Burning Heart 2. Teresa Clements: Plaisir 3. Ken Bacon: Not named

Class 11 5 Kaufmaniana, Greigii or Fosteriana cultivars (5) 1. Teresa Clements: Plaisir 2. Barbara Pickering: Purissima 3. Barbara Pickering: Flaming Purissima

Class 12 3 multi-headed tulips one variety (2) 1. Jenny Orrell: *T. praestans unicum* 2. Teresa Clements: *T. praestans unicum*

Class 13 3 tulips any other colour, one variety - restricted entry (3) 1. Joan Russell: Orange Princess 2. Linda van Lopik (Pickering): Not named 3. Jean Wyatt (Barnsley): Barcelona

Class 14 3 cut flowers from one species tulip (9) 1. Mrs T Braithwaite (Bramcote): *T. humilis alba caerulea oculata* 2. Jenny Orrell: *T. clusiana chrysantha* 3. H.Fogg: *T. sylvestris*

Class 15 5 cut flowers from one or more species tulips (8) 1. Mrs T Braithwaite: Tinka 2. Barbara Pickering: *T. clusiana chrysantha* 3. Mrs T Braithwaite: *T. humilis alba caerulea oculata*

Class 16 A Bowl or pan of species tulips containing not less than 5 bulbs (12) 1. Mrs T Braithwaite: *T. urumiensis* 2. Keith Orrell (Wrenthorpe): Tangerine Beauty 3. Harry Fogg: Tinka

Bourette, Brocade, Brocatelle

Marguerite Murray

The Garden Visit this year, jointly with The Yorkshire Gardens Trust, was made to Temple Newsam in Leeds, and included a guided tour of the house. We were divided into two groups, and one group was shown The Warner Collection of Historic Textiles, which is housed at Temple Newsam, but the other group was not. This collection is so important socially and historically that I want to mention it in case it was missed. There are very few places where such an extensive archive can be seen and studied, and it falls into three main categories: Woven, Printed and Painted, and Embroidered.

Covering a period from the early Seventeenth Century to the early Twentieth Century, the Collection was started by Metford Warner, who had owned, from 1872, a wallpaper manufacturing company, which employed some of the best designers of the day. This company had the honour of reproducing by handblock all of William Morris's designs for wallpapers. Metford and his wife travelled in Italy, about 1911, and collected records and examples of silk damasks, velvets, linen and silk brocades. His sons Horace and Reginald were also collecting in the Low Countries. Reginald Warner set up a hand-loom weaving company in Suffolk, which continues today as the Gainsborough Silk Weaving Company. In 1940 they were commissioned to produce a red cotton damask for the Picture Gallery at Temple Newsam, which was to replace a red flock wallpaper hung in 1826.



The picture gallery together with its wallpaper is shown in the photograph taken a few years ago, though the room has since been redecorated to an even earlier pattern.

Country houses are frequently furnished with exquisite and opulent textiles, sometimes specially commissioned or imported from abroad. They are often of as much historical importance as the furniture or the house itself, although less durable, and more susceptible to the dictates of fashion. Country House sales were therefore a good source for obtaining examples for the Collection which was being continued and built up by Metford's grandson, Roger Warner. Many of Roger's finds were actual articles or made-up curtains, which show how items were constructed and used at the time, giving a further insight into social history and interior fashions. Occasionally the sample is a cut out sleeve or part of a garment, or sometimes a pattern piece for upholstered furniture or a curtain showing how rings were attached with loops of tape. There is a silk on silk patchwork showing how old letters have been cut up and used as templates. A particularly charming example of a curtain tie-back features in the catalogue at 321 and in the Collection at 194, dating from 1860/70.

Floral designs are much in evidence and tulips appear along with other prized flowers on, for example, a wool carpet border, embroidered fustian and embroidered silk. Several examples of original William Morris fabrics are included and Temple Newsam's Warner Collection is a must for textile students, historians, needlecraft enthusiasts and interior designers, not forgetting to mention set designers and historical novelists.

Temple Newsam Gardens

James Akers

After an excellent guided tour around the house and buffet lunch in the Lady Hartford Suite, the visit moved outside to the extensive gardens. We were fortunate to have as our guide for the afternoon, Martin Walker who has been involved over a number of years with the redesign and refurbishment of the gardens at Temple Newsam. Martin has also been responsible for making the gardens of Leeds City Council at recent Chelsea Flower shows.

Temple Newsam was the birthplace in 1545 of Henry Stuart, Duke of Albany, better known as Lord Darnley the second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots and the father of James I of England, James VI of Scotland. An extensive tour of the house and gardens may be made online by visiting <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam/index.html>. The mansion was the home of the Ingram family for over 300 years until its purchase by Leeds City Council from Lord Halifax in 1922. With the help of Lottery funding the council have been able to restore to the house most of the treasures previously owned by the family.

The estate comprises 1500 acres (600 hectares) of park, woodland and gardens and also includes a farm with Europe's largest collection of rare-breed animals and poultry. Nothing remains of the earliest gardens, so the landscaping seen today owes its origins to a York builder William Etty who was commissioned in 1710 to create the Eastern Avenue with its woodland drive and ornamental lakes which were



stocked with fish. The picture above shows Martin Walker (centre with umbrella) on the modern bridge which crosses the lakes. A feature of the woodland drive was the way in which it approached the house, not in a straight line, with an initial tempting long-distance view of the house which disappeared as the lakes were approached, reappearing again as the road climbed back towards the house. During the next 40 years the eastern vista of the house was transformed by replacement of the earlier buildings with an open landscape.

In 1762, at the invitation of Charles Ingram, who had recently married the wealthy Frances Gibson, Capability Brown produced a large-scale plan of changes to the landscaping in all four directions from the house. Although the original plans were never completely fulfilled, many of the features still exist today including the new road from the north through the Sphinx Gates and the Little Temple visible in the woodlands. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, walled gardens were created and extensive planting of rhododendrons took place which are still a popular feature of the garden today.



The photograph shows some of our party with Martin Walker at the start of the very colourful walk through the rhododendron shrubbery towards the walled gardens and glasshouses.

The walled gardens have changed quite significantly over the years, including a period in the early part of the 20th century when they contained a small zoo. Temple Newsam is the holder of a number of National Collections of plants under the NCCPG scheme. These include *Delphinium elatum* cultivars, some of which we saw in flower, *Phlox paniculata*, *Aster novi-belgii* and *Solenostemon scutellarioides* which we all know as Coleus. Please remember Coleus because it will be the new password for the society website, members section, when that is introduced early next year.

A visit to these gardens is never complete without a walk through the long modern glass-house which abuts the original firewall. Well known for its magnificent display of geraniums (pelargoniums), on this visit we were able to see a wonderful display of foxgloves and hydrangeas. That is if you were not asleep when Teresa Clements took the picture.

A wonderful Garden Visit.



National Auricula and Primula Society (Northern Section)

Interested in Auriculas?

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or contact the secretary:
Mr.R.Taylor, 27 Temple Rhydding Drive, Shipley. BD17 5PX.

Larkspur Flowers

Anya and Marwood Yeatman

Having completed a book on English food [1], as gardeners, my husband and I turned our attention to flowers. On looking into the industry, we found that the market in England was globally supplied, oil consuming and chemically dependent.

There were a few English producers left mainly in Lincolnshire and intensive, so there appeared to be a niche for us. Our aim was to grow a seasonal and sustainable succession of carefully chosen flowers and cut them for local and London people.

We found a small plot on a Hampshire hillside, facing south, with a winterbourne flowing past and the downs on the horizon. A neighbouring farmer ploughed the land, which had been unused for years except as a muck heap. The soil was rich and deep, overlying chalk and perfect for our project. We called our little company ‘Larkspur Flowers’.

In making our selection of plants and flowers, many of which had been tested in our garden, it soon became clear why the beauty, elegance and performance of English tulips had turned so many heads throughout their history. Ambitiously, quixotically and undaunted by the biting winter wind, we planted by hand over two thousand bulbs and twenty varieties in a regimental strip.

Our favourites included: ‘Purple Prince’, not the most winsome tulip, but vigorous, reliable and the first to show (single early, March 23rd); ‘Rem’s Favourite’, another strong variety, ivory white, flamed with deep beetroot purple (triumph 10th April); ‘Jan Reus’ rich dark red (triumph, 10th April); ‘Palestrina’ salmon pink with green markings (triumph 20th April); ‘Salmon Impression’, huge blooms of pale, warm pink with a blue black centre (darwinhybrid, 13th May); ‘Esther’, pale pink (single late, 20th April); ‘Recreado’, rich purple, and ‘Queen of Night’, dark maroon (both single late, 25th April); and ‘Burgundy’, dark purple – looked a bit floppy when cut but after a few hours in a vase put up their fluted heads on undulating stems and an elegant fluted shape (lily-flowered 25th April). The last were ‘Blue Parrot’, ‘Bleu Aimable’ and ‘Dillenburg’, which is no longer available (12th May). There were surprises too - green flamed red, red flamed yellow, purple flamed white on a lily type.

We dug up each flower including the bulb and a two foot stem, washed the leaves, removed the bulb, and packed them in buckets, also by hand. Then, we set out in the car like a couple of higglers, seeking a modest premium for our rare and historic breeds of tulip, their satin textures, sumptuous colours, and languid forms that lasted over two weeks and grew in the vase.

We tried selling door to door, to a local market and to retailers. The manager of the local garden centre, even though it is one of the smartest, said that the “most

difficult thing was getting people to discriminate.” In our case, not many did. So, our tulips ended up either in the dustbin or at home.

The weather was hellish at times, the work ridiculous, the dividend zero, and the disappointment hard to bear. The enterprise finished before it started, but without regrets. We had enjoyed the flowers that beautified our house and plot, and the contacts made.



‘Rem’s Favourite’ (photo Anya Yeatman)

We were at the Chelsea Flower Show discussing the niceties of tulips with Avon Bulbs when we learned about a group whom, above all others, we were advised to contact – The Wakefield Tulip Society! We could hardly wait, We were not disappointed, and shall be making a pilgrimage to your next annual meeting.

[1] *The Last Food of England* by Marwood Yeatman, photographs by Anya Yeatman. ISBN: 978-0-09-191397-7 (0-09-191397-7). Ebury Press, 2007. £25.00 (hardback, 352 pages). See website <http://thelastfoodofengland.com/>

Anya Yeatman is a new member of the society

Potty about Tulips

Harry Fogg

Those of you who are also daffodilophiles will know that basal rot has forced me to grow these in pots long term despite it being a well known fact that they do not like it. It is less well known that I started growing tulips this way a couple of years before, though here the incentive is my being reluctant to give up valuable areas of the garden for this purpose.

The original idea came from the AGM, I think it was John Snocken who described growing the species in a raised bed in a layer of sand above the soil based compost. I don't aspire to a three foot raised bed, but a 10in pot of compost and 1in of grit-sand nicely holds five bulbs in a ring with room for a central stake, and is plenty of weight for me to shift at my age. But then why more compost? Bulbs do not root above the base plate unless desperate for room, and it only sits there going sour, so 2in more grit-sand finishes it off, followed by enough alpine grit to prevent capping. As for the compost, I aim for a good alpine mix; alpine grit, loam and the fibrous material of your choice (no use of the 'p' word here) and I have tried leaf-mould as well, plus blood fish and bone and dolodust. The proportions depend on the quality of the ingredients, I am aiming for something of the porosity of a colander, water disappearing as fast as you pour it on.

Aftercare raises some problems. Stood outside, the roots are at risk of frost, yet in a greenhouse growth is too early and the plants fall over before they can go outside at the beginning of March with cover on very cold nights. The saviour is a mouse-proof shed, quite dark but also cold enough to delay the start of growth, though they must go out as soon as they start to elongate, and I have found the North wall of the house gives fair frost protection and slows development (to give better flowers?). Once out, watering and feeding needs to be regular, daily in warm weather, but wind is the enemy. This method has given very respectable flowers on 'La Cortine', 'Burning Heart' and 'Menton' in their third year without lifting. But there are problems: the leaves on the many offsets make watering difficult, although they do produce lesser flowers for the mantle-piece, and I have been led astray by Dick's honeyed words to buy ever more desirable varieties, so now the shed is full. Next year I must plant out some of the indistinguishable 'Renown' sports to make room for more 'Menton', the most perfect colour and form of all tulips.

Tasmanian Tulips

Teresa Clements

In Spring 2007 my daughter had a holiday in Amsterdam and she brought ten tulip bulbs back for me. Tulip bulbs in spring? It hadn't occurred to her that to have bulbs rather than plants in full growth in April was a bit odd.

There were some instructions on the package, '*Keep the bulbs before planting in a cool place, +/- 5°C, for 10 weeks before planting in the garden 10cm deep. Flowering 8 weeks after planting. Bulbs grown from cultivated stock. Produce of Tasmania.*' So that was why they were dormant in April, they were from Tasmania! They were Triumph tulips, variety 'Leen van der Mark'.

The bulbs had their ten week sleep in the fridge, then I planted them out in a pot in the garden and despite the shortening days they grew rapidly, if a little unevenly. I took the first photograph of them with one bloom showing colour on 14 October 2007.



First photo taken on 14 October



Second photo taken on 28 October

It seemed so peculiar to have a pot of tulips flowering alongside the *Rudbeckias* and *Sedum spectabile*. I don't know if 'Leen van der Mark' is a resilient variety or if being out of step with the normal seasons made these blooms last a long time, but I took photographs of them regularly, the last one being on 4 December 2007, a fantastic total of eight weeks.

The tops died back after flowering and I have left the bulbs in the pot undisturbed. They were dormant throughout the Spring of 2008 and as I write in August 2008 there is still no sign of growth. I think it is unlikely that they will come into growth again this Autumn as they will have had their hot and cold periods in the wrong order. My guess is that they will need the cold of winter 2008/2009 following the warmth of this summer before they start growing again and will have a long dormant period to bring them into line with the seasons in the Northern hemisphere.

They have been a great present, I have enjoyed them simply as tulips but have also had the extra interest of them being a bit of a curiosity.



Photos taken on 20 November (above) and 3 December (below)



RHS Awards to Tulips at Chelsea

At this year's Chelsea Flower Show five tulips were given awards for exhibition by the RHS, four of which are shown below, photographed by James Akers on the Bloms Bulbs stand. The other was 'Menton'.



'Dordogne' AM



'Ballerina' FCC



'Professor Röntgen' FCC



'Pink Panther' AM

Tulips from Sweden

Ulf Hansson

Ulf Hansson, one of our overseas members, sent some photographs of his tulips which cheered up a very gloomy day, his words express what many of us think about growing tulips (Teresa).

One of the reasons why I started to cultivate tulips was the ritual of putting down bulbs in the soil, and after that - dark and cold. But there is hope, under cover in the cold garden something bides its time. And then, a sunny afternoon in late February you see small green tips and the countdown can begin. May is really the great time of passion.

We have three flowerbeds, two for breeders and one for breaks. The low wooden fences are to protect from wind and to catch the sun and warmth for flowering as early as possible and then to increase the chances of bringing flowers to the Annual Show



Halmstad is at the same degree of latitude as St Andrews in Scotland so we are about one or two weeks later in flowering than Wakefield. Halmstad is situated within a bay, it's about 200-300m to the bay and seashore from the tulip yard. There are protecting woods and houses between our yard and the sea but we can have strong storms and gales, especially in the spring. The soil we are cultivating is like in Holland, old sea bed, much sand and very drained. Because of the light sandy soil the farmers around Halmstad cultivate potatoes. This year we plan to bring some potato soil to the tulip yard, hopefully the tulips will like it.

For about three years we have cultivated seedlings. We place the seedling boxes in good light but not in direct sun or

maybe just for one or two hours for midday sun. The result is that the seedling shows its leaf from March to middle of June and the small bulb increases its size successfully. The first year seems to be the most difficult when the seedlings are small bulbs.

There is a picture showing flowers with bags and to left seedling boxes. The bags Peter Royles very kindly sent to us after our visit to the Annual Show in 2006. They are meant to prevent the bees doing further random pollination. This year we pollinated six 'James Wild' with pollen from 'Royal Sovereign'. Three of them gave seed pods. We also pollinated some 'Sam Barlow' with pollen from 'Bessie' and a 'Goldfinder' with pollen from a good 'Sam Barlow' which resulted in seed pods. Fascinating!



Me, Emilie 'Judy Baker' and 'Gloria'

This winter was mild, even January and February, but in middle of March the winter came. One week with some nights with minus 12° Celsius and snow. We thought catastrophe, the tulips were



Josef with bulbs ready for planting

more than tips, but it seemed to be no problem. Even the seedlings were covered by snow. I suppose things like this also happen in Pamir and Uzbekistan so things like this have happened before in the tulip's history

If you want to see where our yard is situated on Google Earth the latitude/longitude is: 56 39'55.06"N, 12 51'04.54"E

Not a secret for members of Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society.

Good luck to Ulf with his challenging cultivation conditions, and thanks to him for telling us about it and sending his photographs (Teresa).

Midland Tulip Society Report

It was a fine day on Saturday 3 May 2008 when a coach load of members went to the 50th anniversary Spalding Flower Parade, Lincolnshire. Disappointment was felt that the parade did not come up to the standard of previous years.

Due to the vagaries of the weather in the Spring it has been decided to hold the show on the last Saturday in April in the future.

On the Saturday 18th April 2009, consideration is being given to a trip to the Abbey House Gardens, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Having previously seen the gardens, it is well worth making a second visit. It is also known for its owners' liking for naturism, but no embarrassment should be felt especially at that time of year. Please let me know if you are interested. The cost would not exceed £20.00, that includes admission into the gardens.

I would appreciate your views on the running of the Society, and articles that could be published to provide a wider area of interest.

Mr T.S.Mills, Mill Maison, Rugeley Road, Burntwood WS7 9HQ
e-mail: tulipman@fsmail.net.

An Email from a Member

Dear Wendy,

I thought your members might be interested in my new book called “Botanical Illustration” which was published last week by the Crowood Press!

I have mentioned the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society on page 122, under a sub-heading of “Plants Grown by Florists' Societies” opposite is a full page illustration of *Tulipa 'Insulinde'* by Susan Christopher-Coulson.

The book is an introduction to the marrying of art and science, it builds on the work of the illustrators of the past, ranging from Elizabeth Blackwell, whose drawings helped to release her husband from a debtors' prison, through to the exceptional scientific drawings of Beatrix Potter. It deals with the practical art and the related botany of the subject and is suitable for beginners as well as those with some experience.

The book contains over two hundred colour illustrations by over fifty artists. It covers the following topics:- the history of botanical illustration, the botany of plants and flowers, materials and equipment, care and preparation of plant material, observation techniques, starting to draw, developing tonal studies, preparing to paint, colour theory, painting techniques, what to paint and how to paint, alternative media, correcting mistakes, finishing touches and a look at the role of photography and computers etc.

Further details and free postage from the Crowood Press at
http://www.crowoodpress.co.uk/2007/forthcoming_details.asp?
ISBN=978+1+84797+051+0

Botanical Illustration, The Crowood Press, ISBN 978-1-84797-051-0 (rrp £19.99)

Amazon have a “search inside” facility where you can look at the first few pages.

With every good wish,

Valerie Oxley

A Flaming Good Day Out

Carole Gude

The Florists' Symposium at Chatsworth House 28 September 2008

What makes a good day out? A bit of 'culture'? A learning experience? Shopping? A bargain? A treasure hunt? Good company, good weather and a few tulips naturally. I don't get out much, so especially having missed the last visit to Chatsworth, my hopes were high for the day of the Florists' Symposium. Did it deliver? You bet.

As it was a damp early Sunday morning the roads were blissfully free of traffic as Barbara (Pickering), Linda (Chapman) and I drove from Barnsley, arriving with a good hour to spare. Anxious as ever not to waste an opportunity, we detoured to the graveyard at Edensor, the estate village. Linda had been reading that Sir Joseph Paxton was buried there, so our mission was to find the grave. Although he was not a local man, on Paxton's death the 7th Duke of Devonshire sent a special coach for his body, so that he might be buried at 'his true spiritual home'*. We found a family tomb surrounded by iron railings – not overly grand befitting the great man.

On, then, to the highest point of the churchyard, where the dignified headstones of successive Dukes of Devonshire stand in line. The newest one, that of Andrew the 11th Duke, is most impressive. It is a simple polished piece of exquisite stone packed with fossils (quarried locally in my imagination) and ornamented only with a carved coiled serpent. Close by is the grave of the late Duke's brother and his wife Kathleen Kennedy, who both died very young. At its base is another simple stone commemorating the visit of her brother President John F Kennedy.

It felt like a very special place, quiet and atmospheric. Generations of families are gathered there, their lives interwoven with strands of history and the glamorous big house just up the hill. We left as the current congregation were beginning to arrive for the morning's service.

On to the meeting of friends old and new, and the symposium: four talks covering the classic Florists' Flowers. After a welcome from the chairman Terry Mitchell we began with Alan Guest covering Auriculas. He took us along a fantastic timeline from the 1400s when the first crosses were made between the wild *Primula auricula farina* and *Primula hirsuta* to an imaginary time in the future where there might be striped doubles. Along the way were our old friend Carolus Clusius, key dates of 1700 and 1757 for striped and green-edged varieties respectively, Flemish pictures; standards for showing, auricula theatres and the legendary Florists' Feasts of the 1850s. Then a variety called Mabel. Mabel? Could she be the same? Interwoven were a succession of familiar names – Glenny, Rev Horner, Bentley, Needham, Shirley Hibberd (who, to my embarrassment, I only recently realised was a man!) all

of whom would be repeated throughout the day. The emergence of the doubles in America in the 1950s and an appraisal of today's flowers brought Alan to a close. A great start.

After a much appreciated coffee/tea break, we reconvened for Jim Marshall with pinks and carnations. Strangely it was only in 1949 that a single society was formed for the two types of flower by Montague Allwood, who raised the much loved and grown 'Doris'. Before then the border carnations (not to be confused with modern varieties) were developed and refined into Flakes and Bizarres and Picotees much as we would recognise in our own society. The pinks started as humble flowers and were 'improved' from the 18th century. Especially keen were the weavers of Paisley, who worshipped 'laced' varieties. The familiar North/South divide for setting standards raised its head, but comfortingly Jim had evidence of the auricula and carnation societies helping each other out in difficult times.

After a few words of advice on what varieties to grow today, Jim dropped his bombshell – he doesn't grow any of the show varieties any more! He has been seduced by the Malmaison carnation, a tricky madam(e) who suffers from so many viral diseases she has to be grown in an isolation unit. A few eyebrows were raised at pictures of quite untidy looking blooms in complete contrast to the show carnations with their perfect rounds of precisely marked petals. To convince us of his sanity, Jim could have made use of smellyvision here (techie please note). The scent would certainly have charmed us all. Attempts are made to judge these flowers by scent, too. How different, how interesting – how difficult can you make things?

We broke for lunch at 12.30 and emerged into brilliant sunshine. No leisurely lunch in a delightful courtyard cafe for us though. After a quick sandwich in the gardens we were off. A peep into the off-season camellia house was rewarded with the sight of an exquisite lapageria, aptly, though not I think, elegantly named 'Pink Flesh'. As if there was not enough to see, our visit coincided with a selling exhibition of modern sculpture set out wonderfully well throughout the gardens. Imagine having the space to house one of these beauties. Imagine having the money to buy one. There was only time to appreciate them in passing, but I loved Richard Hudson's 'Love Me' – a huge gold heart shape



'Love Me'
by Richard Hudson

(photo Carole Gude)



'Femme en Flamme'
by Salvador Dali

(*photo* Carole Gude)



Flamed Bizarre Dahlias
(*photo* Carole Gude)

Flamed Bizarre Tulip 'Sir Joseph Paxton'
(*photo* James Akers)



which changed form as you walked around it, and the enormous (gold again) 'Femme en Flamme' by Salvador Dali. Hurrying on through the strid with its fantastic pieces of stone we came to the display of dahlias. I am a bit of a collector and often think the sum is greater than the parts, so seeing them all massed together rather than in carefully controlled borders hit the spot. There were all colours and sizes, pompons, cacti, water-lily types and some even looking like 'flames'. I thought they were great. Returning to the house I noticed those serpents again, carved into the stone all around the building, and then again in the carpets and tiles inside. My head was full of repeated motifs.

After lunch, Bob Taylor seemed to have the most challenging task to talk on Hyacinths, Ranunculus, Anemones **and** gold-laced Polyanthus. All were available at John Harvey's Brompton Park Nursery in the mid 16th century, were taken up by florists, 'improved' beyond all recognition, enjoyed periods of huge popularity, only to almost vanish very quickly. The illustrations Bob used were particularly interesting. In 'April', one of Robert Furber's 1730 *Twelve months of Flowers*, we can see gorgeous ranunculus, unimaginable today. They were popular with the Scots and available in hundreds of varieties. In 1847 Glenny was setting standards for showing, but by 1880 Douglas was bemoaning their demise. Anemones, also shown in Furber, seem equally elusive, interest declining as the hyacinth came into fashion. The earliest illustration of this flower shows a graceful curved stem with well spaced single flowers in blue or possibly white, but by the late 17th century there were doubles and Ehret has a pink in 1734. The latest idealised show flower was a pyramid of very tightly packed double florets— a very strange thing. Bob showed a very interesting analysis of the number of shows devoted to each flower, and some lovely schedules.

Bob completed his talk by relating what happened to the Gold-laced Polyanthus. He used a succession of slides from the exquisite print of Beauty of Flora (Curtis 1810), through George Lord's redground of 1922, to the numerous strains which can be seen on the show-bench today.

A break for a cold drink and a breath of fresh air before the last lap. James Akers took to the podium for his talk on English Florists' Tulips. I for one was on information overload by now, so this was like putting on a pair of comfortable old slippers. Very good quality slippers, mind you. Our society members have heard James speak many times, so the best thing was to try and listen as a newcomer would. Sure enough, with the aid of some very fancy technology, he set out the essentials. Breeders and breaks, shapes, colours, classes, clean bottoms, feathers, flames, skips and beams were all explained with wonderful clarity. How did we ever struggle to understand it all? The lecture ranged through the history of the flowers, the shows and personalities up to the present day with some choice illustrations. We forget how sensational the 'Young Daughter of the Picts' is to anyone unfamiliar with it.

We broke up at 4.30 pm, grateful to the four distinguished self-confessed 'grumpy old men' for informing and entertaining us so well, and thankful to the organisers for putting together a unique day—all for the princely sum of £10.



Alan Guest, Jim Marshall, James Akers and Bob Taylor (*left to right*)
(*photo Malcolm Foster*)

As I write, my memory is losing the factual content of the talks (though I now know where to look all that up) but the pictures remain with me. It is like a great patchwork quilt of beautiful flowers stitched together by those great men (always men, dammit) whose names we heard over and over again. Their skill, passion, vision, perseverance and force of personality made it all happen.

Just time for a gallop around the kitchen garden and the shops in the charming stable block, then a few fond farewells before closing time. A super day out. My favourite bit? At the risk of causing offence, I am very tempted to say Fernando Botero's captivating bronze horse.

* *A Thing in Disguise: The Visionary Life of Joseph Paxton* by Kate Colquoun (London: HarperCollins, 2003)



Horse by Fernando Botero
(photo Carole Gude)

World Tulip Summit

Linda Chapman

Spalding, the centre of the bulb growing industry in England (principally now daffodils), was chosen to host the 2008 World Tulip Summit. This followed previous summits in Ottawa 2002 and Canberra in 2006. It was timed to coincide with the 50th (and possibly the last) Spalding Tulip Parade, a tourist attraction comprising floats, decorated with tulip heads, representing local businesses and organisations. Michel Gauthier, the Summit President from Ottawa, summed up the philosophy of

the Summit when he stated that it was “for people who celebrate and have a love of the tulip to come together and share”.

The Summit, held on 1-2 May 2008, attracted 200 delegates from 12 countries, with participants from as far away as Afghanistan and China. It was disappointing that there were only a limited number of British delegates. Lord Taylor of Holbeach, Chairman of Springfield Horticultural Society and Director of Taylor’s Bulbs, who welcomed the delegates to the South Holland area of Lincolnshire, officially opened the Summit.

First Day Speakers

John Honnor, from Spalding and District Civic Society, set the scene for the Summit with some of the history of South Holland area and its bulb growing background. John, a retired land drainage and flood defence engineer, has a keen interest in the history of land drainage which has created such fertile land suitable for bulb growing. He has worked for over 40 years understanding how to balance drainage across the Fens.

The next speaker was our very own Society Secretary and orator, James Akers, who delighted delegates with an enthusiastic presentation covering the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society and English Florists’ Tulips. The audience, many of whom were commercial growers, were enthralled to hear of an aspect of tulip growing so far removed from their own experiences.

Anna Pavord, the garden writer and author of ‘The Tulip’, gave a passionate delivery of “the flower that drove men mad!” Anna related how, during the height of ‘Tulipomania’ in Holland in the mid 17th-century, tulips turned the entire economy of this rich and prosperous nation upside down, to the point where the Amsterdam Stock Exchange began dealing in tulips rather than stocks and shares!

Publisher and gardening author Karen Platt, who specialises in and researches black plants, discussed whether we would ever see a black tulip. The truly black tulip still seems elusive; ‘Queen of Night’, ‘Black Hero’ and ‘Havran’ are the darkest flowers currently available.

Final speaker of the morning was Richard Wilford, Collections Manager at Kew Gardens and author of *Tulips: Species and Hybrids for the Gardener*. Richard talked about the current growing conditions at Kew and where tulips are grown in the Gardens. He followed this with an overview of past tulip research at Kew, including botanists that have named tulip species eg. O Stapf and J G Baker.

The buffet lunch was a superb table of locally sourced food including hams, potatoes, salads and Lincolnshire dishes such as stuffed chine (cured shoulder of pork scored and stuffed with chopped parsley). Lunch

was an opportunity for delegates to chat and get to know their mutual areas of interest.

After lunch the first speaker was Dr. John Page who talked about tulips in the alpine garden. Many tulips, in the wild, grow in conditions similar to habitats for alpenes, consequently, alpine gardens, with their well-drained soils, screes, raised beds etc have the potential to create good conditions for the growing of tulips.

Sally Pettit, of Cambridge University Botanic Garden, gave an interesting presentation on tulip species and primary hybrids. Cambridge University Botanic Garden holds the NCCPG National Collection of *Tulipa* Species and Primary Hybrids, comprising 68 types. Sally talked about the history of the Collection and current cultivation.

James Armitage, a botanist at RHS Wisley, reported on the small-flowered tulip trial at Wisley, which commenced in 2006. He related the considerable problems encountered with tulip fire, due to the wet seasons and growing so many of the genus together, as is inevitable in the nature of such trials.

As part of the Summit there was a Gala Dinner at the Springfield Exhibition Hall in the evening. A special exhibition of tulip art was displayed at the Hall. Monique Martin, who had worked with local schoolchildren for a number of weeks previously, prepared the exhibition. The high standard of creative artwork, produced by children of all ages, demonstrated the enduring image of the tulip. Many of you will remember Monique, who is Canadian, from her paintings exhibited at the "Old Flames" exhibition at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in 2006. Also in the Exhibition Hall was the Society's Gold Medal winning exhibition "Genus Tulipa" which attracted great interest from those attending the dinner.

Second Day Speakers

Unfortunately as I had to return home at the end of the first day, I am only able to list the second day speakers and their topics. The World Tulip Summit website is still live and more information can be found here on www.tulip2008.com.

The keynote speaker on the second day was Prof. Bill Miller who spoke about tulip and flower bulb research at Cornell University. Other speakers included Dr Brent Elliott, Archivist of the RHS.

Site visits followed the closure of the proceedings including; the Flower Float sheds, the Springfields Festival Garden and Ayscoughes Gardens. The Summit was generally considered to be a great success, with some very interesting and diverse topics addressed in excellent presentations.

The next World Summit will be in 2010 and will be held in Skagit Valley, Washington State USA.

Grumpy Old Men With Style

James Akers

It was very interesting at the recent Florists' Symposium to hear all the speakers relate stories of the conflicts that took place amongst the early florists when the standards for judging the various flowers were being determined and agreed. Most common were the arguments between florists living in the north and south of the country. T was ever thus!

But in the tulip world there was the additional belief, possibly the only area of agreement between north and south, that the British had a significant lead over the florists in Holland when it came to the breeding of new varieties. To a certain degree this latter belief has continued until recent times. It was not until just before the second world war, over 100 years after its establishment, that the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society agreed to the introduction of classes for tulips other than English Florists'. These were for Darwin tulips, but the classes were always referred to as 'the Dutch', and said with a voice which demanded a sneer on the face and a slight upturn of the nose. My father, who also grew and bred exhibition daffodils, always described flowers which didn't quite achieve the required standards because of an over-large cup as 'gobby' or 'Dutch'.

It was therefore very interesting to read in this regard, *The Gardener and Practicall Florist* 1843 and *The Florist* 1858, books added to the society library last year. In the former book on pages 179-180 appears an item, 'The Dutch Florists', which begins 'From a Dutch work published in 1764 we select the following scraps; they are curious in their way'. When the book was written, the existence of the virus which caused breaking was unknown and there was much speculation about how rectification could be brought about. The Dutch work offered two methods, the second of which begins 'The second, which is founded on our own experience, is to make as great a change as possible in the soil the bulbs are to be set in; either by taking the bulbs out of one garden and planting them in another, or by mixing different earths, or by procuring new sorts every year from Holland, which is the best way of all for foreigners.*' The editor's note at the bottom of the page was very precise. '* No bad advice this for a Dutchman, with a good stock to give. – ED.'

Earlier in the former book on pages 57-59 appears an excellent item, 'The Tulip Fancier', which describes the passion required to grow Florists' Tulips and their superiority over other flowers. 'Young and old, the cunning and the ignorant, the cockney and the countryman, are alike astonished at the order, variety, delicacy, and beauty of a well-arranged collection, though they may turn with indifference from the most complete garden, or discard one by one all the other flowers that are valued and esteemed.' Later in the article is written 'Tulips have long been partially, but nevertheless, successfully cultivated in England; and so many new varieties have

been raised in this country, that the Dutch are altogether behind us. Notwithstanding the advantages they possessed, and the character they maintained for many years, there must at present be more than a hundred good varieties which they have not yet grown in Holland, while it is rare that they can offer us any thing worth notice, except of the old standard kinds.'

However, for sheer style, the account of The Royal National Tulip Society's Exhibition of 1858 in *The Florist* above the signature Josh. Hunt takes some beating. 'Doubtless you will receive from some of your numerous correspondents a "full and true account" of the names of the successful candidates, and also of the winning flowers at the recent exhibition of The Royal National Tulip Society, at Sheffield; but there are two or three matters, in connection with the show, on which I should like to make a few observations. First, I think great praise is due to Mr. Bagshaw, the hon. secretary, (who, I understand, had many difficulties to contend with in making arrangements for the place in which to hold the show) and, I doubt not, that the courteous attention he gave, and the endeavours he made to meet the reasonable request of every exhibitor, must have ensured him the approbation of all, and to which I am free to state I feel he is justly entitled. Secondly, although the hon. secretary did the best he had it in his power to do, yet, I must say, that a more inconvenient, dirty place for an exhibitor to put up his flowers in, than that to which myself and other exhibitors were introduced, it would be rare to find; and then, again, the place in which the blooms were staged for the inspection of the censors was anything but desirable, for we conceive Tulips never tell so well as when shown under canvas; but here, exposed to the fierce rays of a burning sun, in a place called *a pavilion*, with a glass roof, without any shade, "the short lived beauties scorched by the sun's directer ray," withered, drooped and died. Thirdly, just one word about the dinner, and in this department the efforts of the secretary were completely successful. We have attended many gatherings of the Fancy, on similar occasions, but amongst the best of all we place the gathering at the Royal York Hotel, Sheffield;- in point of numbers it was greater than we have hitherto met, and the very excellent dinner, the quality of the eatables and drinkables, and the style with which it was served up, and the very moderate charge, justify the assertion that it was the best affair of the kind we have ever attended.

The star of the show was 'Sarah Headley' a rose feather raised by Richard Headley of Cambridge, who also raised 'Adonis'. Alan Hawkes, a member who died earlier this year, sent us a few of this variety, but there was always doubt as to whether or not it was true to name. I grew it for a number of years but it never thrived, and there may still be members who have stock. Certainly it has never produced in our hands a flower to compare with the plate which I have reproduced from *The Florist*.



Sarah Headly.
(Headly)
Plate 142.

J. Andrews Del. & Zucco.

Printed by C. Chatot.

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Dates for your Diary 2009

- April 1** Bulbs in the Spring Garden - A day of talks at the RHS Conference Centre, Vincent Square, London. Cost £15 (details 0845 370 0148)
- April 23-26** Harrogate Spring Flower Show at Great Yorkshire Showground
- April 25** Midland Tulip Society Annual Show
- April 28-29** RHS Tulip Competition in the Hillside Centre, Wisley
- May 2-4** Constable Burton Tulip Festival
- May 16** 174th Annual Show at Normanton Community Centre
- May 17-21** Flowers from the show on Display at Keukenhof Gardens, Holland
- October 3** Annual General Meeting at Wrenthorpe Village Hall

Magazines and Periodicals

Over the years the Society has been featured in magazines, periodicals and newspapers dozens of times. We are currently scanning such articles to a disk so that they can be indexed and made available to Society members. To ensure that we have a complete record, could you inform the Secretary, address inside front cover, of any such document of which you have a copy. If the Society does not have this article, then we will endeavour to obtain one, and if that is not possible, ask for permission to borrow your copy in order to produce a facsimile. Please do not fail to inform us even though you feel sure that the Society will have a copy. We would rather be informed of the same item 20 times than miss one. Eventually we will publish a complete list of all the items that have been archived.



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Statement of Accounts for Year ending 31st July 2008 (unaudited)

Receipts			Payments		
	2008	2007		2008	2007
Subscriptions	1,028.75	770.00	Insurance	340.00	153.00
Donations	10.00		Postage	96.63	243.38
Bank Interest	36.55	20.75	Newsletter	589.83	682.90
Dividends	34.79	25.84	Printing/Stationery	85.20	164.90
Profit AGM	185.60	91.51	Engraving of trophies	224.32	422.50
Profit Main Show	124.61	-5.69	Library Books	3.00	95.50
Calendar sales	294.00		Calendars	282.25	
Symposium	30.00		Symposium	0.00	
Prize Money	111.75		Prize Money	111.75	
Sales table	636.54	905.22	Sales table	93.90	373.75
YSP picture sales	561.00		Bulb distribution	116.63	44.90
Share Value Change	59.19	77.73	Other	0.00	35.50
Sales table stock value change	228.12	-236.97	Cost of Exhibition		-195.00
YSP stock value change	-1,002.23				
Change in monies owing	-246.89				
			Operating surplus	148.27	-372.94
Total	2,091.78	1,648.39	Total	2,091.78	2,021.33

Statement of Assets

	2008	2007
Current Account	4,235.58	2,827.88
Abbey Account	3,366.18	3,294.84
Banco Santander Shares	877.54	818.35
Sales table stock	1,781.19	1,553.07
YSP stock	0.00	1,002.23
Cheques to be paid in		170.97
Monies owing	-673.30	-426.41
Unpresented cheques	-200.00	
Cash in hand	2.01	0.00
Total	9,389.20	9,240.93

AGM October 2007

Raffle	145.95	Hall hire	
Refreshments	80.00	Crockery hire etc	49.35
Plant sales	9.00		
		Profit	185.60
Total	234.95	Total	234.95

Main Show May 2008

Raffle	104.00	Hall hire	76.00
Refreshments	76.85	Crockery hire	33.14
Plant sales	47.00	Gratuities	20.00
Sale of blooms	25.90	Profit	124.61
Total	253.75	Total	253.75

