

**WAKEFIELD
&
NORTH OF ENGLAND
TULIP SOCIETY**
ESTABLISHED 1836



**NEWSLETTER
NO 21
AUTUMN 2009**

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

OFFICERS 2009-2010

PRESIDENT	The Duke of Devonshire CBE
PATRONS	K N Eyre, J L Akers MBE
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, Malcolm Hainsworth, John Wainwright.
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, 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 2010 become due on the date of the Annual Show May 2010 and are for the sum of £5 per Member, £6 for Family Membership and £50 for Life Membership

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Front cover photograph by Teresa Clements

Editorial

Although still officially the Editor, Wendy's continuing poor eyesight has prevented her from taking the leading role in the production of this publication. She has therefore asked me to write this editorial.

This is the 21st Newsletter which the Society has produced. A coming-of-age in which we go from strength to strength in the range of subjects covered, new contributors coming on-board and number and quality of the photographs used. As you will read later in the Treasurer's report, stock of our publication *English Florists' Tulips into the 21st Century* is now depleted and we are anxious to produce a replacement before our 175th show. We need suggestions urgently, from all our members, as to what topics should be included. Please make it a New Year's resolution to send these to our Secretary Teresa Clements by the end of January at the latest.

The photographic competition was a great success and it is clear that the digital camera has joined the computer as a 'must have' in every household. Surprisingly however, we rarely receive photographs of our Annual Show for inclusion in the Newsletter. Is it the hordes of visitors which prevent us from getting near enough to the show tables to capture the flowers? Next year the Annual show will be a two-day event so hopefully there will be a greater opportunity to record some of the best exhibits and Premier Bloom award-winning flowers. There is a record in an old magazine from the end of the 19th century of the best flowers at our Annual Show each year being taken into a separate room where their details and qualities were listed. Unfortunately we no longer have that record. However I feel that with modern technology we should reintroduce the practice at future shows.

Congratulations are due to Teresa Clements on her receiving this year an MSc in Botany, with distinction, from Leeds University. Her item 'Close-up on Colour' in this publication is fascinating and we look forward to further articles in a similar vein.

Please look closely at the black and white photograph of the garden visit to Dudmaston. Although taken only fourteen years ago, I have forgotten the names of several members who appear on it. We would like a complete record for the archives.

Finally a few words of thanks to all the members who have contributed articles and photographs for this issue; I am sure that everyone reading it will find something of interest. I am indebted too, to Teresa Clements, Jeff and Barbara Pickering and Wendy, despite her sight problems, for their proof-reading. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 175th Annual Show and even more to receiving your thoughts on it.

James Akers

Chairman's Report

Malcolm Hainsworth

I am pleased to review yet another successful year in the Society's lengthening history. Before that I must place on record the loss of our greatly valued member Jack Taylor. James is offering his full appreciation of him later in the newsletter. Jack was a judge of our English blooms for many years, continuing to do so even when he was unwell. We, and he, had hoped that he would have been able to judge this year but alas that was not to be. I think I remember Jack from my early years in membership. This youthful picture is in our first handbook. I certainly heard of his enormous collection of bulbs. Unfortunately, none of them remained within the Society when he was invited to be one of our judges. However, we have all benefited directly and indirectly from his critical yet appreciative eye. This is particularly true of our newer judges who will have absorbed and incorporated Jack's knowledge and expertise which, like very few others, goes back over fifty years.

I was delighted by, the simply superb display created by Carole Gude at the Harrogate show. Carole was ably assisted by Wendy, Barbara and Marguerite. I caught glimpses of the early stages of this project which, if I dare say, had the appearance of preparation for an un-ambitious firework display. I left the showground long before the task was completed by Carole and Barbara who worked well into the night. I am definitely not up to describing the brilliant result of their attempt to recreate a large scale 17th century floral still life. All who saw it were impressed and amazed at this extraordinary effort to compel nature to imitate art. The display was the high spot of the show for me and for a good number of others. Judge from the photographs.

Although the size of the tulip show itself was disappointing, those that did manage to enter did themselves credit and gave a really good indication of the tulip's potential. The show consumes a good deal of members' energy and we need more volunteers if we are to continue to attend Harrogate. It's a good day out and I'm always surprised at the old and new acquaintances I make and the privileged look round the showground.

The 174th Show exceeded expectations. Well done to all entrants old and new, each one of whom made an essential contribution to it. Thank you for all the hard work of all those who helped to make it so, particularly those who run the stalls and provide the sustaining refreshments. Our judges contentedly accepted and exercised their reallocated responsibilities. Their thoroughly focused approach immediately confirmed the confidence which we had placed in them. Our show was slightly shortened this year to allow the transfer of a substantial part to Holland and the Keukenhof. An account of this exciting initiative – a

variant of the Beaujolais nouveau run – follows. Like my confusion with the trophies this may become another, but more pleasing, Society tradition.

I may be almost solitary in regretting our departure from Normanton. The staff there were very obliging and I could find the place – if I remembered to turn right after the Royal Sovereign (I'm not sure I have an example of that bizarre). Nonetheless, we are very welcome at our new venue, the Primrose Hall at Horbury. The Committee has visited it a number of times and we are all convinced that it will better serve our needs. We are all looking forward to our 175th Show and Feast – which will extend over two days. We hope that the second day will allow time for further less pressured enjoyment of the often subtle varietal characteristics of our blooms. We hope that members will try to take advantage of this additional opportunity to examine them at leisure.

Our summer visits to Shropshire and Staffordshire were keenly anticipated and thoroughly enjoyed. I could never do justice to Kate Swift's wonder-filled garden nor to the extensive and varied enterprise of the Spencer's lavender farm. I think I did full justice to the delicious biscuits and cakes that Kate and Joanna provided and we are grateful to our hosts and our organiser of the day. Was I the only visitor who wondered how far and fast one needed to drive to escape the range of Robin's longbow, which he had forcefully demonstrated just before we left?

The Committee was heartened by the well attended AGM. We attempted to reduce the formalities to provide more time to meet each other. If the election appeared hurried it was not because the Committee wanted to exclude any member wishing to join or help in its work. The more leisurely lunch was of the highest standard and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and appreciated all the effort that went into making it. We were entertained by John Snocken's film "the Show '09 uncut". We have so few photos or accounts of the conduct and rituals of earlier shows. The early snapshots of cup winners and participants offer few clues and John's film is a helpful addition to our visual record. Similarly, we will benefit from John Wainwright's presentation. He demonstrated his quiet and informed passion for his breeder introductions and yet again we were reminded of the transient nature of so many beautiful promise-filled blooms. What does certainly last is the generosity of those contributing to the raffle. The spectacular displays of fruit and vegetables brought by Sue and Jonathan made the raffle table a worthy subject for a still life. The funds we raised will be used for new acquisitions to our library – I'm enjoying the books gifted by John Snocken – and for improving the quality and effectiveness of our display material.

Teresa and Jason organised bulb distribution from their home in Harrogate. Fortunately they were assisted by Keith, James and Wendy who have long experience of this task. Marguerite made sure that I enclosed the correct labels.

One day was devoted to breeder bulbs and another to breaks. It is a serious business both protracted and made easier by generous hospitality.

Every effort is made to satisfy the initial requirements of new members and the requests from others wishing to augment their collection. It takes a good long afternoon to label, wrap and assemble the small parcels which are then posted far and wide. We can only distribute what we can confidently identify and are obviously entirely dependent on the kindness of all those members who return their surplus. The Walkingtons sent some remarkably good bulbs, all of which were distributed. Wherever the bulbs have gone – some to Sweden others to the further limits of Scotland – we wish the growers well.

As I write this, late as ever, I know that I can never be late enough in planting as far as James is concerned. I have only a handful of breeders left to plant out – I know not where. Not counting offsets I planted about two hundred and thirty five flowering sized bulbs. I have recorded the number in each row and variety where I'm fairly confident of it. I do hope that I can report some progress in both increase and identification next year. Those very welcome new members should make every effort to avoid the pickle I've fallen into and from which I have yet to climb.

Secretary's Report

Teresa Clements

This is my first Secretary's Report but, before writing it I looked back nervously at the reports given over the last few years and the overall impression is that they get longer every year! It is traditional to comment on the fact that the Chairman is hoping for, and looking forward to, a quiet year and that this never happens. It certainly didn't happen last year and with the 175th Annual Show coming up in 2010, it doesn't look like the coming year is going to be a quiet one either.

Correspondence

We were informed of the death of Jack Taylor, who has judged our shows many times, in June of this year, and the death of Brian Collinson of Wrenthorpe in July.

Meetings

The Committee met four times this year, once to discuss the Harrogate Spring Flower Show, more about that later, the second meeting was before the showing season began, we had a third meeting after the shows and the last meeting was prior to this AGM. We usually only meet twice in the year so this has been a particularly busy time.

Harrogate Spring Flower Show. The Committee met in November to discuss the changes the Northern Horticultural Society had imposed on us in a cost-cutting exercise. They were no longer willing to pay the travelling expenses nor provide lunch for our show judges, the funding for this would now have to come from the Society. A subsequent meeting with the NHS director, Roger Brownbridge, since retired, resulted in us helping to cut more costs by agreeing to reduced exhibition space and some savings on the printing of the show schedule.

The Show went ahead as usual, and the Committee are grateful to those volunteers who set up the show stand and dismantled it all again on the last day and represented the Society throughout the show. An outstanding contribution was made by Carole Gude, who coordinated and arranged a magnificent floral display based on the Dutch Masters' still life paintings. Visitors gazed at it with admiration, had their photographs taken in front of it, photographed it from all angles and made many complimentary comments. It did much to raise the profile of the Society and the spirits of all that saw it.

Unfortunately the number of entries in the show was again disappointing, the effects of the weather and the absence of exhibitors who used to bring many blooms and show in several classes, meant that the total entry was reduced to fewer tables, as it was last year.

Constable Burton. Again, the Society had a stand at the Constable Burton Hall Tulip Festival. The weather was fine up until the last day and blustery throughout, but the tulips withstood it all. This is always an enjoyable day out for the volunteers who help, and we are grateful to Charles Wyvill for his hospitality.

The 174th Annual Show. The entry was good, despite the lateness of the show date. Many exhibitors had to cut their blooms well in advance and store them in a chilled place to keep them for the show. The best bloom was won by a new breeder, a seedling bred by John Wainwright that has since been named Jack Taylor.

We needed more support than usual from our members for the Annual Show as it was swiftly followed by the trip to the Keukenhof. Many thanks to all those people who helped on the day and made it possible for three car-loads of people with the blooms and display boards to travel to the Keukenhof and set up the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society's 174th Annual Show as part of the conclusion to the Keukenhof's 60th Anniversary celebrations. We flew over there and it was a proud moment to see our show in the fantastic setting of the Keukenhof Gardens. There was a great deal of interest in the tulips and visitors were fascinated by the display and delighted by the flowers.

Garden Visit

Those of us who were fortunate enough to go on this year's garden visit had a lovely day out. The weather was perfect and we went first to The Dower House at Morville Hall in Shropshire, home of one of our members, Dr Katherine Swift, who made us most welcome. She allowed us to wander freely around her beautiful garden and patiently answered all our questions. Most of us assembled for lunch at a fine old Shropshire Inn and then went on to visit Joanna Spencer's lavender farm and garden, where again we had free access to wander at will, though it was difficult to tear ourselves away from sitting in the sunshine drinking tea and eating cake. Our thanks to Joanna for organising the visit and to both our hosts for making us so welcome.

Summary

This has been a long list of what has been happening over the last year, but to me the most important matter of all is something that has gone on quietly in the background. Over the last few years members have been reporting the gradual increase in the numbers of their breeder bulbs that have broken. This year we have been really lucky to have the chance to buy back some breeder bulbs from the *Hortus bulborum*. These were propagated from stock sent to the *Hortus* many years ago and we should be grateful that someone had the foresight to do that. With this in mind, several members of the Society have done a stocktaking exercise to put together some complete sets of breeder bulbs. These have been distributed to several locations, but in addition to these sets another set has been sent to the *Hortus bulborum* to be cultivated away from infection by tulip breaking virus and to be propagated to safeguard a supply for the future. This is what the Society is all about and we should be grateful to those members who have maintained these named varieties over the years and put so much work into recording, organising meetings and transport and finally assembling the bulbs to make up complete sets to preserve the much loved and least known for the future.

Finally, a few words about next year. Our show in 2010 will be the 175th Annual Show, you will already have heard a little about this in the invitation to the AGM. The show will be held at Primrose Hall in Horbury rather than at the venue we have used for the last few years at Normanton, but we will make sure everyone gets good directions. We are hiring Primrose Hall for two days. The Annual Show will take place on Saturday 8 May at the usual time then the hall will be open again on Sunday to give everyone a second chance to have a long look at the flowers and maybe one of our judges could be persuaded to give us some guidance and instruction about how they came to their decisions. It will be a good chance to learn what makes a prize-winning entry and how to recognise

the different varieties. On Saturday night there will be a celebratory dinner at Primrose Hall, based on the traditional florists' feasts, ticket prices are expected to be £25 per person. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Next year is a big year for the Society; now is the time to start thinking about it. Buy the bulbs, enjoy that optimistic time planting them and let's put on a fantastic show at Harrogate and especially at our 175th Annual Show!

Treasurer's report

Jason Clements

Statement of Accounts for Year ending 31st July 2009

Reviewed by our auditor Ivor Fox

Receipts	2009	2008	Payments	2009	2008
Subscriptions ⁴	1,048.41	1,028.75	Insurance ³	0.00	340.00
Donations ⁵	209.60	10.00	Postage	251.44	96.63
Bank Interest	8.30	36.55	Newsletter	649.88	589.83
Dividends	63.50	34.79	Printing/Stationery	175.78	85.20
Profit AGM	184.71	185.60	Trophies: Engraving & Purchase	150.64	224.32
Profit Main Show	27.11	124.61	Library Books	35.00	3.00
Calendar Sales ⁶	354.00	294.00	Calendars	438.96	282.25
Symposium	300.50	30.00	Symposium	270.00	
Prize Money	69.00	111.75	Prize Money	83.00	111.75
Sales table	1,044.62	636.54	Sales table	402.85	93.90
YSP picture sales		561.00	Bulb distribution	77.53	116.63
			Other	164.39	
			Outstanding from 2008 ²	673.30	
			Operating surplus/deficit ¹	-63.02	1,110.08
Total	3,309.75	3,053.59	Total	3,309.75	3,053.59
 Statement of Assets					
	2009	2008	Change		
Cash Assets					
Current Account	3,904.15	4,235.58	-331.43		
Abbey Account	3,414.51	3,366.18	48.33		
Unpresented cheques		-200.00	200.00		
Cash in hand	22.09	2.01	20.08		
Total	7,340.75	7,403.77	-63.02		
Other Assets					
Banco Santander Shares	764.96	877.54	-112.59		
Sales table stock	1,242.53	1,781.19	-538.66		
Monies owing		-673.30	673.30		
Total	2,007.49	1,985.43	22.05		
 AGM October 2008					
Raffle	166.00		Hall hire	35.00	
Refreshments	90.00		Crockery hire etc	54.29	
Plant sales	18.00				
Total	274.00		Profit	184.71	
				274.00	
 Main Show May 2009					
Raffle	79.00		Hall hire	108.00	
Refreshments	92.00		Crockery hire & Food	55.82	
			Fabric	23.92	
Plant sales	51.85		Gratuities	20.00	
Sale of blooms	12.00		Profit	27.11	
Total	234.85			234.85	

The details of the Society's financial transactions between August 2008 and July 2009 can be seen on the previous page. I have changed the format of the report slightly this year, in order to distinguish between our cash assets and others whose worth can only be estimated at a point in time. I am pleased to say that the overall position remains healthy and I see no need to increase the subscription rate in the near future.

I can also point out that our auditor was able to approve the accounts **before** the AGM this year, possibly a first in recent times!

I hope most of the figures above speak for themselves, but some deserve further explanation. The numbers in brackets relate to notes on the accounts.

The operating figures ⁽¹⁾ appear to show that a surplus of over £1,100 last year turned into a deficit of £63 this year. However, two other figures must also be taken in to account before drawing such a conclusion. Firstly there is the payment ⁽²⁾ for a number of items whose cost was actually incurred in 2007-08, or earlier. Then there is the insurance payment ⁽³⁾ where two years' payments were inadvertently paid during the 2007-08 financial year. This also explains why no insurance payments were apparently made this year – readers may rest assured that our public liability insurance has been maintained at all times.

Allowing for both these adjustments, a truer picture of the surplus would be about £600 last year and £440 this year. I hope to avoid any such infelicities in next year's accounts.

The subscription income ⁽⁴⁾ remains buoyant, which I think is a very good indication of the non-financial health of the Society. In fact the current membership stands at 211, with 29 having joined in 2009. An eagle-eyed AGM attendee asked how it was that we had received £1048 and 41 pence when subs are £5 or £6. The answer is partly the generosity of some members who overpay their subs, and also that some overseas members pay in whole numbers of Euros, which then convert to an amount including odd pence.

We were also fortunate to receive a number of donations ⁽⁵⁾, including a very generous €200 from an overseas member.

One disappointment was that some of last year's calendars failed to sell and we ended losing about £85 on them. The Committee responded to this by ensuring that the 2010 calendar had a better selection of pictures, and only ordering 40 of them. In fact, these completely sold out at the AGM, so our apologies to anyone who missed out.

Finally, I believe I remarked on presenting last year's accounts that I was almost embarrassed to have such a strong bank balance in a Society which is essentially non profit-making. This financial year, though, we expect to be publishing a new Society booklet as the stock of *English Florists' Tulips into the Twenty-First Century* is now depleted. This will need a substantial up-front payment, so our financial cushion will be most useful.

Library Report

Margot Murray

The collection of books in the WNETS library is growing stronger each year and I thank everyone who returned books at the AGM.

Recently acquired is an excellent book which was recommended by James Akers - *Mary McMurtrie's Country Garden Flowers* by Timothy Clark, one of the Society's Vice-Presidents. Mary McMurtrie was a passionate gardener corresponding with friends such as Margery Fish and Gladys Emerson with whom she collected, propagated and exchanged many uncommon varieties of old cottage garden plants, double primroses in particular, no doubt ensuring their survival and future availability.

She was also an accomplished botanical artist and the illustrations are delicately painted, yet express absolutely, the character and presence of each plant.

The first chapter describes and explains her life and her interest in plants and further chapters deal with old favourites and some "Forgotten Elizabethan Plants" (Chapter 9).

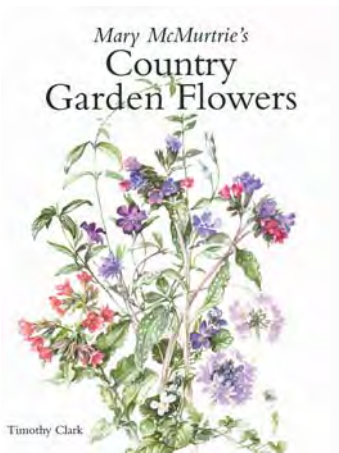
The Appendices contain examples of the correspondence between Mary and her friends, including Timothy Clark and Edith Osborne in Ireland, and offer a further charming insight.

A gift has been received this year of two rather precious books, donated by Harriet Warden in memory of her Godmother Mrs Vivienne Nurse, who was at one time deputy headmistress of Wakefield Girls High School.

Both books have been newly bound in order to preserve them as they are quite delicate. They are each a year's collection of monthly periodicals.

One of them is the "Midland Florist and Suburban Horticulturist" "January - Dec 1848, with articles, reviews, advice and correspondence from a most fascinating period, covering a wide range of topics. These include new plants and ideas of the times along with recipes for composts and the importance of School Gardens.

Of particular interest is a section on "Tulips the Properties and Judging of". Among the many tulips mentioned in the articles, few are heard of these days. They are classified as being of 1st, 2nd or 3rd row, which refers to the



planting schemes favoured at the time with a bed of tulips being filled towards the middle by the height of the tulip (shorter at the front). This scheme was reproduced a few years ago in a planting which the Society carried out to augment the Tulip Festival at Constable Burton Hall, but it is no longer in place , although much admired at the time. One end of the bed had very short tulips but this appeared to be due to the prevailing North Yorkshire wind.

The second book is the Floricultural Cabinet and Florists magazine. January to December 1834, conducted by Joseph Harrison. Harrison was the gardener to the Right Honourable Lord Wharnccliffe of Wortley Hall in South Yorkshire.

I happened to visit a plant fair there on August 29 this year. The hall is now a hotel, but during the war it was occupied by the Army and the grounds and extensive walled garden fell into disuse.

The walled garden was brought back into use in 2004 by the Heeley City Farm as an organically certified kitchen garden. It was opened to the public to coincide with the plant fair and organic produce was on sale, which included unusual varieties of tomato and cucumber, and there are also fruit trees there of historical interest. Similar openings are planned for the future and information can be found at www.wortleyheritage.org.uk.

The gardens of the hall itself are Grade II listed Italianate and can be found on www.gardensofsouthyorkshire.com where a series of walks led by the present head gardener are advertised. All this only helps to put into context the enthusiasm of gardeners and garden owners in the first half of the C19th, who have left such a rich heritage.

Just a few miles from Wortley Hall is Wentworth Castle, at Stainborough near Barnsley. The conservatory there was featured in the TV programme "Restoration", and although the project is still in need of funds, the result promises to be marvellous. The restoration of the gardens there began nine years ago and they are very rewarding to visit.

To help raise money for their garden volunteer programme, there is a second hand bookstall where I found a copy of "Black Tulip" by Alexandre Dumas. On the strength of this I have decided to add a new category to the library - Relevant Fiction. If you haven't read "The Black Tulip," it is a tale of dastardly intrigue, subterfuge and love against a backdrop of political unrest beginning in The Hague in 1672. A rare tulip is central to the plot - I will say no more.

"The Midland Florist" and the "Horticultural Cabinet" will not be loaned under the usual terms for books in the library, because of their fragility, but access will gladly be arranged if required.

"The Horticultural Cabinet" contains some hand coloured engravings, including tulips.

Minutes of AGM held on 3rd October 2009

The meeting was held at Wrenthorpe Village Hall starting at 12 noon.

Chairman's welcoming remarks

Malcolm Hainsworth welcomed members to the meeting.

The death of Jack Taylor, a long-standing show judge for the Society, was reported. The meeting observed a minute's silence in his memory. There will be an obituary of Jack Taylor in the Newsletter.

Apologies for absence were received from; Mrs Davies, Mr Hughes, Christine Burn, Ivor and Barbara Fox, Anna Pavord, Mrs P Cartwright, R. Harper, R. Hobbs, Margaret Cooper, Mrs Butlin, Julia Aked, C. Nelson, Peter and Anne Turner, Pam Briars, Tim and Elaine Lever.

Minutes of previous AGM

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

Matters arising. None

Secretary's Report

Teresa Clements. The Secretary's Report appears separately in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Jason Clements. The Treasurer's Report appears separately in the newsletter.

A question arose about the sums of money recorded as subscriptions not being whole pounds when the annual subscription fee is £5 per person, £6 for a family or £50 for Life membership. The conversion of overseas payments, usually Euros, into sterling and the generosity of some members who pay additional amounts as subs, when paying for other items at the same time, to round up their total payment, results in sums that are not whole pounds.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

Election of Officers

President	The Duke of Devonshire
Patrons	Mr Keith Eyre, Mr James L Akers MBE
Vice Presidents	P Emmett, T Mills, T Clark, J Ollerenshaw, Dr A K Swift, Mrs C Gude, Mrs J Green, R Bingham, Mrs Anna Pavord, Mrs W M Akers, Mrs A Smales, Ms S Akers and Mrs B Pickering.
Chairman	Mr M Hainsworth
Secretary	Mrs T Clements
Treasurer	Mr J Clements

Editor Mrs W M Akers
Auditor Mr I Fox
Committee James Akers, Wendy Akers, John Wainwright, Terry Mitchell, Jane Green, Keith Eyre, Malcolm Hainsworth, Marguerite Murray, Jason Clements, Teresa Clements. Carole Gude, Barbara Pickering, John Gibson.

The chairman suggested that the current officers, listed as above, were re-elected. Keith Eyre proposed John Wainwright and Malcolm Hainsworth be added as Vice Presidents.

Questions arising were:

Q. Is the Vice Presidency a lifetime appointment?

A. Yes it is.

Q. There are thirteen Committee members, is this a fixed or flexible number?

A. The official number is probably twelve, but the Committee are able to co-opt additional members. The chairman made it clear that a warm welcome awaits anyone who wants to offer their services as a Committee member and if volunteers didn't feel able to speak up at the AGM they could contact any of the Committee members for further details.

Dr Trevor Myers proposed the acceptance of the above list with the addition of the two new Vice Presidents, the proposal was seconded by Cynthia Day and accepted by the meeting.

Dates of Shows and Events

The Ancient Society of York Florists' Show. 18th April 2010, Askham Bryan College.

The Harrogate Spring Flower Show. 22nd to 25th April 2010, Harrogate Showground.

RHS Show, 27th April 2010, The hillside Centre, Wisley.

Constable Burton Hall Tulip Festival. 1st to 3rd May 2010.

The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society's 175th Annual Show Saturday 8th May 2010, Primrose Hall, Green Lane, Horbury. Please note this new venue.

A celebratory dinner will be held at Primrose Hall after the show, 7pm for dinner at 7.30pm, in the tradition of the Florists' Feasts. Tickets cost £25 per person.

Primrose Hall will be open for a second day on Sunday 9th May, for members and for the public, this day to be used for educational purposes.

The AGM in 2010 will be in Wrenthorpe Village Hall on the first Saturday in October. (2/10/10)

Any Other Business

1. Margaret Mitchell suggested that more use is made of email to send out general communications to save on printing costs and postage. Several other members agreed with this. Teresa and Jason Clements asked in last year's newsletter if members would send an email to them so a list could be drawn up that could be used for sending out the Society's communications. Very few people responded to that appeal but some members regularly correspond with us by email. There was a trial run to test the email addresses we already have, which had a good response, and we will try to build on that this year.

2. Terry Mitchell asked if the Secretary's zetnet email address was still working after problems earlier in the year? Yes it is t.clements@zetnet.co.uk

3. David Day asked if we could ensure the list of officers is printed inside the front cover of this year's newsletter? Yes, it was omitted by the printers last year, which was a pity as the officers and contact details had changed since they were last printed in 2007.

4. James Akers asked if members would send in their articles for the newsletter, he only has two items so far.

5. James Akers asked members to consider what topics members would like to see included in a new edition of the Society's book. The last edition was published in 2000 and we have almost sold out of copies. 2010 seems an appropriate time for an updated version, especially as it coincides with the 175th Annual Show. James suggested we read the books we have and contact him with articles and photographs and suggestions for topics to be included.

6. Margot Murray drew members' attention to the generous and valuable gift of two books for the library from Harriet Warden. These are *The Floricultural Cabinet* and *The Midland Florist*. They are a great asset to the library and we are grateful to Harriet for this splendid gift.

7. Steve Thompson reminded us that the Society is primarily a showing society, rather than simply for the preservation of old varieties, and that it is good to see new varieties appearing. However he wanted to put in a plea for the old varieties. Let's not allow them to disappear. Some societies regard varieties developed in the 1970s as old, by comparison some tulip varieties seem ancient and should be valued. Perhaps it might be possible to stage a non-competitive display of old varieties at the show?

James Akers agreed. These varieties have been retained as good growers and although they may not be the best examples of feathers or flames, eg. variety Lady C. Gordon, they can provide a bloom to make up numbers in a stand of flowers for a show.

John Wainwright agreed it is essential to look after the old varieties as they form a link with varieties of the past. They have stood the test of time and it is not known if the new ones will last as well.

Malcolm Hainsworth said that a library-type display of varieties would be something to aim for at the show. It would provide a useful and interesting reference for members to see fresh, live, named specimens of new and old varieties.

Richard Smales said that none of the old varieties had been discarded because something better had come along. Unlike daffodil hybridisers, tulip growers retain the old varieties.

James Akers said, that during the period he and Keith Eyre have been custodians of the Society, few varieties have been lost. Rarely seen are George Hayward breeder, Jessie breeder and Helen Josephine breeder. Cyrano is still grown but there are not many left. There can be confusion between varieties and James asked that when members cut James Wild breeder or Goldfinder breeder for showing, they label the flowers and the bulbs they were cut from so that after the show the bulb can be identified. Sulphur looks very like James Wild and Gleam looks like Goldfinder, these are seen occasionally at shows but it is difficult to trace the flowers back to the bulbs, they need to be separated out and named.

8. Cynthia Day has an interest in the history of tulips and would like to see a pamphlet produced listing the varieties we have and did have giving their age and other details.

James Akers says that some of the historical details are recorded in the book English Florists' Tulips into the 21st Century.

Keith Orrell makes a plea for any historical details to be presented carefully. The history of the Society and of the tulip varieties is complex, can we use less text and more tables and diagrams.

The meeting closed at 1:10pm for lunch.

Harrogate Spring Show 2009

James Akers

Once again the number of entries at this show proved disappointing. Although it is always easy to blame an early or late season the answer to the decrease does not lie there. The loss from exhibiting of the three husband and wife King, Smales and Turner families has removed the potential of twelve entries in the Championship of Great Britain class. Although we have gained a few new exhibitors their entries have so far been in the classes demanding fewer flowers. One possible way of increasing the entries in this prestigious class would be to reduce it to three vases of six rather than nine blooms. However the Society will give it another couple of years to see whether entries do increase before experimenting with the format.

Although there were only two entries this year in the Championship class both were good exhibits and Ken Bacon was the worthy winner with Chris Bone

second. Marit and the long sought after Forgotten Dreams, a sister seedling of Vivex, were included in both entries which made judging a little easier as a direct comparison of the vases could be made. Ken chose Vivex for his third variety and Chris opted for Ad Rem. This latter variety has in recent years produced a high number of multi-headed blooms when grown from large bulbs.

There were seven entries in the class for a single vase of blooms which was won by Jenny Orrell with a fine vase of Toyota, with Teresa Clements and Wendy Akers in second and third. I suppose that it is to the exhibitors in this class that we should look to step up to the Championship class next year.

One grower, Paul Payne, was genuinely affected by the season which prevented him from producing a single vase of nine flowers. Nevertheless he produced two immaculate vases of three to win the pink/red and yellow classes. Linda Chapman was second in both but won the any other colour three with World Peace, the sport from World's Favourite.

The classes for species and other small growing tulips were very well supported, and much appreciated by visitors to the show.

Results

Class 1 TULIP CHAMPIONSHIP OF GREAT BRITAIN 3 Vases of 9 Tulips, 3 different varieties, one per vase (2) 1. Ken Bacon: Vivex, Marit, Forgotten Dreams 2. Chris Bone: Marit, Forgotten Dreams, Ad Rem

Class 2 9 tulips - one variety (7) 1. Jenny Orrell: Toyota 2. Teresa Clements: Fidelio 3. Wendy Akers: Marit

Class 3 3 Lily flowered tulips, one variety (6) 1. Barbara Pickering: Moonlight Girl 2. Barbara Pickering: Maytime 3. Jenny Orrell: Maytime

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

Class 5 3 Double flowered tulips, one variety (4) 1. Joan Russell: Orange Princess 2. Barbara Pickering: Sun Lover 3. Teresa Clements: Miranda

Class 6 3 Fringed tulips, one variety (1) 1. Not awarded: 2. Not awarded: 3. Teresa Clements: Barbados

Class 7 3 Yellow flowered tulips, one variety (5) 1. Paul Payne: Golden Parade 2. Linda Chapman: Big Smile 3. Teresa Clements: Bellona

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

Class 9 3 Pink or Red flowered tulips, one variety (11) 1. Paul Payne: Menton 2. Linda Chapman: Forgotten Dreams 3. Four Seasons: Toyota

Class 10 3 tulips any other colour, one variety (9) 1. Linda Chapman: World Peace 2. Anne Payne: Burning Heart 3. Linda Chapman: Toyota

Class 11 5 Kaufmaniana, Greigii or Fosteriana cultivars (2) 1. Teresa Clements: Lady Diana 2. Jenny Orrell: Red Riding Hood

Class 12 3 multi-headed tulips one variety (0)

Class 13 3 tulips any other colour, one variety - restricted entry (7) 1. Jenny Orrell: Avignon 2. Linda van Lopik: Marit 3. Four Seasons: Maureen

Class 14 3 cut flowers from one species tulip (5) 1. Teresa Clements: *Tulipa clusiana* 'Tinka' 2. Teresa Clements: *Tulipa tarda* 3. Linda Chapman: *Tulipa linifolia*

Class 15 5 cut flowers from one or more species tulips (4) 1. Teresa Clements: *Tulipa clusiana* 'Tinka' 2. Barbara Pickering: *Tulipa orphanidea* 3. Harry Fogg: various

Class 16 A Bowl or pan of species tulips containing not less than 5 bulbs (8) 1. Barbara Pickering: *Tulipa clusiana* 'Tinka' 2. Jenny Orrell: *Tulipa whittallii* 3. Terry Mitchell: Not named

The Annual Show 2009

James Akers

As has often happened in the past, a generally late season heralded a burning hot start to May with flowers hurriedly refrigerated to hold them for the 174th Annual Show on 16 May. There were 37 exhibitors, just 5 fewer than last year. As with Harrogate Spring Show the entries in the vase classes were extremely disappointing with only one entry in the class for 18 'Dutch' and only two entries in the 12. In neither case did the judge Keith Eyre feel the standard warranted the award of a first prize. Jean Higginson was delighted to win the 6 from five other exhibitors with the rarely shown King's Blood. The best class with 11 entries was the 3 where John Thompson's Maureen beat his wife Jyll's Maureen into second place and were judged the Best Vase in this section.

The main talking point among the exhibitors of the Florists' tulips was the shortage of breeders where the majority had found a very high incidence of 'breaking'. As a result only Judy Baker was able to stage an entry in the 12 and 9 breeder classes. Barbara Pickering is usually successful with her breeders, and this year she won the 6, with John Snocken second and Judy third. John's six contained no less than four of John Wainwright's recently named varieties indicating how much more serious the breeder situation would be if the distribution of these had not taken place.

At last our Chairman Malcolm Hainsworth fulfilled the potential he has long promised with his broken flowers winning both the 12 and 6 rectified classes. He also almost achieved a clean sweep in the six classes for single, pair and three flames and feathers, with only Barbara Pickering's pair of feathered pushing him into second place. John Wainwright's superb seedling bizarre breeder, to be named Jack Taylor, was the Premier Bloom in show.

It is not easy to escape from the Novices section these days, but Bob Taylor achieved it after many years of trying. It is often said (usually by me) and history proves it, that if you grow auriculas you can't grow tulips and *vice-versa*. In Bob we have the exception that proves the rule.

Jane Green who has taken over the judging of the Open Section with the death of Jack Taylor was the most successful exhibitor in the extra-open section.

A final point. It has been a tradition over the past forty years or more (long may it continue) for an experienced exhibitor to 'borrow' a flower from a fellow competitor to complete an entry in one of the 12 or 9 bloom classes 'to make a show'. This year I won the Local Silver Challenge Cup with a 9 which included a 'borrowed' flower. The fact that the 'borrowed' flower was judged to be the Premier Flame in the show indicates the true spirit of competition within the Society.

Results

Vase Classes

Class 1 The John Hardman Memorial Class Vase of 18 Tulips (One variety not English Florist)

(1) 1. Not awarded: 2. Chris Bone (New Mill): Grand Style

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

1. Not awarded: 2. Ken Bacon (Sutton-in-Ashfield): Maureen 3. Chris Bone: Hillary (*sic*) Clinton

Class 3 Vase of 6 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (6) 1. Jean Higginson (Menston): King's Blood 2. Barbara Pickering (Newmillerdam): Orange Favourite 3. John Snocken (Bridgnorth): Maid of Holland

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

1. John Thompson (Morley): Maureen 2. Jyll Thompson (Morley): Maureen 3. Wendy Akers (Wrenthorpe): Florosa

Class 4a Vase of 3 Tulips from bulbs donated by Miniature Bulbs (7) 1. Linda Chapman (Pickering): Grand Amour 2. Jean Higginson: Grand Amour 3. Don Palmer (Brabourne Lees): Grand Amour

Class 5 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips (1)

1. Malcolm Hainsworth (York): Columbine

Class 6 Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips (0)

Class 7 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips (0)

Open Section

Class 8 NORMAN EYRE MEMORIAL GOBLET Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties)

(1) 1. Judy Baker (Hitcham): James Wild, Lord Stanley, Sam Barlow, Goldfinder, Music, Lunae, Talisman, Columbine, Mabel, Gloria, Hubert Calvert, Juliet

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

1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley Fl, Sir J Paxton Fl, Lord F Cavendish Fe, Lord Stanley Fe, Talisman Fl, Columbine Fl, Adonis Fe, Columbine Fe, Akers Fl, Wakefield Fl, Mabel Fe, Wakefield Fe 2. Judy Baker: Lord F Cavendish Fl, James Wild Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe, Lord Stanley Fe, S91-2 Fl, James Wainwright Fl, Adonis Fe, Columbine Fe, Juliet Fl, Ruth Duthie Fl, Utopia Fe, Judy Baker Fe

Class 10 ROYLES JUBILEE CUP Stand of 9 Breeders (different varieties) (1) 1. Judy Baker: Sam Barlow, Goldfinder, James Wild, Gloria, Cassius, Mabel, Talisman, Bessie, James Wainwright

Class 11 LOCAL SILVER CHALLENGE CUP Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar) (3)

1. James Akers (Wrenthorpe): Lord Stanley Br, Lord Stanley Fl, JW05/1 Fe, James Wainwright Br, Talisman Fl, Adonis Fe, Hubert Calvert Br, Wakefield Fl, Julia Farnese Fe 2. Judy Baker: James Wild Br, Lord F Cavendish Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe, Music Br, Columbine Fl, James Wainwright Fe, Gloria Br, Juliet Fl, Utopia Fe 3. John Snocken: Airey Br, Dr Hardy Fl, James Wild Fe, Music Br, Talisman Fl, Rachel Lady Labouchere Fe Solis Br, Akers Fl, Mabel Fe

Class 12 SILVER CHALLENGE CUP Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips (2)

1. Malcolm Hainsworth: James Wild Fl, Lord Stanley Fe, Mabel Fl, Wakefield Fe, Adonis Fl, Columbine Fe 2. John Snocken: Dr Hardy Fl, Lord F Cavendish Fe, Akers Fl, Mabel Fe, Rory McEwen Fl, Agbrigg Fe

Class 13 THE G.S.HUNTER MEMORIAL CUP Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties) (3)

1. Barbara Pickering: Sam Barlow, James Wild, Juliet, Mabel, Columbine, Music 2. John Snocken: Nectar, Airey, Juliet, Solis, Wendy Akers, Albert Tear 3. Judy Baker: Nectar, Sam Barlow, Hubert Calvert, Gloria, Talisman, Trefoil Guild

Class 14 STAGES CUP Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (3)

1. John Snocken: James Wild Br, Fl and Fe 2. Jenny Orrell (Wrenthorpe): Cydonia Br, Agbrigg Fl and Fe 3. James Akers: Columbine Br, Fl and Fe

Class 15 SILVER PLATE Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (3)

1. Margery Walkington (York): James Wild, Music, Mabel 2. James Akers: McWH7, James Wainwright, Hubert Calvert 3. John Snocken: Airey, James Wainwright, Mabel

Class 16 Three Flamed (4) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley, Talisman, Julia Farnese 2. Margery Walkington: Lord Stanley, Talisman, Wakefield 3. Jenny Orrell: Lord Stanley, Agbrigg, Wakefield

Class 17 Three Feathered (1) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: James Wild, Agbrigg, Wakefield

Class 18 Pair of Flamed (11) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Sir Joseph Paxton, Talisman 2. James Akers: Mabel, Talisman 3. Margery Walkington: Julia Farnese, Lord F Cavendish

Class 19 Pair of Feathered (5) 1. Barbara Pickering: Julia Farnese, Lord F Cavendish 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: James Wild, Talisman 3. Jenny Orrell: Julia Farnese, Columbine

Class 20 One Breeder (11) 1. John Snocken: Juliet 2. Barbara Pickering: Juliet 3. Judy Baker: Airey

Class 21 One Flamed (24) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: James Wild 2. Margery Walkington: Lord Stanley 3. James Akers: Rory McEwen

Class 22 One Feathered (9) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord F Cavendish 2. Jenny Orrell: Julia Farnese 3. Trevor Myers: Mabel

Class 23 SEEDLING CUP One Seedling Breeder or Rectified raised by the exhibitor (3) 1. John Wainwright (Wrenthorpe): K952

Class 24 Three Seedling Breeders (one from each colour class) (1) 1. John Wainwright: E92-20, Wendy Akers, Mars

Novice Section

Class 25 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (3) 1. Bob Taylor (Shipley): James Wild Br, Lord F Cavendish Fl, Lord F Cavendish Fe 2. Roy Tetley (Keighley): James Wild Br, Wakefield Fl, Wakefield Fe 3. Trevor Myers: Goldfinder Br, Wakefield Fl, Adonis Fe

Class 26 One Breeder (22) 1. Bob Taylor: Wendy Akers 2. Judith Shone (Pontefract): Columbine 3. Ulf Hansson (Sweden): Music

Class 27 One Flamed (26) 1. Bob Taylor: Lord F Cavendish 2. Trevor Myers: Akers Flame 3. Jean Richardson (Leeds): Columbine

Class 28 One Feathered (5) 1. Roy Tetley: Agbrigg 2. Roy Mitchell (Wrenthorpe): Agbrigg 3. Jean Higginson: Wakefield

Class 29 THE GINA ROOZEN CUP Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (4) 1. Bob Taylor: Lord Stanley, Albert Tear, Juliet 2. Trevor Myers: Goldfinder, Music, Hubert Calvert 3. Roy Tetley: James Wild, Wendy Akers, Mabel

Extra Open Section

Class 30 One Breeder (11) 1. Margery Walkington: Goldfinder 2. Hazel Hesketh (Barnsley): Mabel 3. Bob Taylor: Music

Class 31 One Flamed (4) 1. Margery Walkington: Lord F Cavendish 2. Keith Eyre (South Cave): Wakefield 3. Jane Green (North Ferriby): Agbrigg

Class 32 One Feathered (1) 1. Not awarded: 2. Not awarded: 3. Roy Tetley: Wakefield

Class 33 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (1) 1. Jane Green (North Ferriby): Goldfinder Br, Lord F Cavendish Fl, James Wild Fe

Best Bloom Awards

Peter Emmett Trophy - Best Exhibit Classes 2 - 4	John Thompson Maureen
Albert Tear Memorial Trophy - Overall Premier Bloom	John Wainwright E-92-20 (Jack Taylor)
Premier Breeder in Show	John Wainwright E-92-20 (Jack Taylor)
Premier Flame in Show	James Akers Lord Stanley
Premier Feather in Show	Malcolm Hainsworth Lord Frederick Cavendish
Cochrane of Cults Vase - Best Bloom Classes 20 - 22	John Snocken Juliet breeder
The Dudmaston Plate - Best Bloom in Novice Classes	Bob Taylor Wendy Akers breeder
Stan Knowles Trophy - Best Bloom Extra Open Classes	Margery Walkington Goldfinder breeder

Rosecarpe Horticultural Society Spring Bulb Show 3-4 April 2009

Morris Robinson

The Rosecarpe Horticultural Society's third two-day show was held at Silverhills Nurseries, Lamesley, Gateshead, just off the A1(M) which is very handy for exhibitors coming from either the North or South. The show goes from strength to strength breaking all records, with 357 entries and over 1050 stems of flowers in 72 classes. Entries came from as far as Dundee in Scotland to Yorkshire in the South.

To all exhibitors who helped in this record breaking show my grateful thanks, it was fantastic to have to put up extra staging to accommodate all the extra entries, it definitely kept Judge Rae Beckwith of Whickham busy when judging commenced.

The quality of flowers from daffodils to tulips and container/planters (vouchers for this class were £50, £30, and £15) was outstanding, bringing very favourable comments from visitors and exhibitors alike.

The Tulip Classes showed great variety of colour on the benches with the most entries we have ever had; let us hope this continues in future years. The Championship Class of 9 Blooms/Stems any variety or colour sponsored by Wakefield & North of England Tulip Society was won by Paul Holmes of Whickham, Gateshead and second was Colin Cochrane of Bill Quay, Gateshead. In the class for 3 Cultivars, 3 stems of each staged in 3 Vases, the placings were reversed with Colin Cochrane taking the honours.

Any new exhibitors interested in exhibiting at next year's show please contact: Show Secretary, Morris Robinson, 6 Stoneylea Close, Ryton, Tyne & Wear. NE40 4EZ. Tel: (0191) 413 8026 – Mobile: 07984 612245 E-mail morrosa@talktalk.net. When schedules are ready they will then be posted to everyone.

The show will be held on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 April 2010, once again at Silverhills Nurseries, Lamesley, Gateshead just off the A1(M) Western By Pass (Direction map inside schedule).

There are 10 Tulip Open Classes, which include:-

The Championship Class for 9 blooms any variety or colour, 3 stems to a vase, sponsored by Wakefield & North of England Tulip Society.

Prizes £8, £6 and £4.

Class for 3 Cultivars, 3 stems of each staged in 3 vases, prizes £7, £5, £3

In all there are 51 Daffodil and Tulip Open Classes, and 24 Rosecarpe Members' Classes, which include Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinth, Amaryllis and Patio Container/Planter of Spring Flowers.



Exhibitors wishing to compete in Rosecarpe Members classes can join on day of exhibiting for £3 per year, this includes a year book.

All entries are free, Tea, Coffee and Home Made Refreshments will be provided free of charge for exhibitors during set up of exhibits, also ample free parking and entry to show.



Two pictures from the 2009 show

If you're only doing one, make it a big one'

Carole Gude

It's really down to Wendy (Akers). For some time we had been re-using our (admittedly gold medal award-winning) Society stand at various venues, and she rather fancied the idea of doing another re-creation of a Dutch flower painting at Harrogate Spring Flower Show to freshen things up. Some of you may remember my trial run at one of our own shows several years ago which Wendy then surpassed with a pair at the RHS Westminster Halls, so we knew what was involved. With our imaginations fired, the project took on a life of its own.

First a bit of research was required, if we were to do this 'properly'. A careful examination of all the illustrations I possess revealed a variety of containers for the flowers - glass vases of various shapes, stone bottles, jugs, but not one urn. A shame, as I was determined to use a very large reproduction one which doesn't see the light of day too often. On the plus side, it has a certain look, and easily accommodates the quantity of wet foam we would need to arrange the flowers in. With no obvious alternative the urn it was. You can only do your best!

Next the flowers. I soon made a list of over 40 easily recognisable sorts. Some are obtained surprisingly easily, some star show flowers we would have to beg for, some might come from gardens or be bought in pots from garden centres. The question was, could we garner enough in number or quantity to do the job, and so early in the year when garden material is tender and holds up badly when cut? - A big ask when the show is several days long. Oh, and we might need some strong background foliage instead of the camellia I used last time to the annoyance of Mr Akers. Something we did not include in the past was the concept of 'vanitas'*. This came surprisingly easily. The caretaker at my local friendly Primary School shinned up a tree to get me a (hopefully uninhabited) birds nest. Artificial eggs we had, and shells—sea and snail. Unbelievably Margot (Murray) had a bird's skull and some beetles and was bullied into over-painting some really naff artificial butterflies to make them beautiful. We drew the line at employing our valuable antique jewellery and watches just in case they went missing!

What else did we need? We purchased several metres of plain black cloth to match what we already had - to use for something - we didn't really know. We briefly wondered if we could get hold of an enormous empty gilt frame to set the whole thing inside.....and Margot would paint a suitable background.....what my husband would call "going off on one". NO. We'll save that for next time.

The preparation was done, and really everything hinged on the quantity of the fresh material we got to use. At this point I have to confess that I had in mind

a friend of my mother, who is well known for saying “If you’re only having one, make it a big ‘un”. We would have to see. You can only do your best.

Barbara and I set off, loaded down with urns, big and little (just in case, a set of trellis stands, bird’s nest, shells etc, shop-bought roses and lilies (best we could get), lovely fragile seeming ranunculus and delphiniums, anemones, fritillarias, tulips, tubes on sticks and stuff raided from several gardens. Full of apprehension suddenly, we entered the tent where there was an air of something waiting to happen. It all seemed a bit much until the Society machinery swung into action.

Chris Bone had got us a sort of black covered framework, which after an unsuccessful attempt of propping it up on a table (too unstable) we decided to use as a base. Could we use the black fabric as a drape to make a background? Could we fasten it to the plastic frame of the tent high enough for the base, the stand, the urn and the flowers? Yes we could - we had some bulldog clips, some pins, a stepladder and we had Jason (Clements). With what flower arrangers call the ‘mechanics’ safely in place, bring on the flowers. They did us proud - a whole table of delights. There were branches of apple-blossom and lilac, crown imperials, narcissi, honeysuckle, fritillaria meleagris, tulips, auriculas, iris, all manner of things. And English Florists’ Tulips - young and fresh and full of promise. Arranging the flowers was the easy bit really. Just don’t make it look too “arranged”. One-by-one people went home, not that we noticed much until I looked up and said to Malcolm “is it just us then?” and he said “no, it’s just you and Barbara, I’m off home”. The urn was finished, with the bird’s nest at the base. I was quite pleased. We placed the two small glass jugs containing small treasures on the smaller stands, and still had gorgeous things left. So (tiring rapidly) I got the smaller urn, filled that and used a lovely piece of brocade as a background to it. We re-arranged the shells and bird’s skull, stepped back and found we had filled the space and had a few flowers left in case anything had to be replaced. Job done. Well after midnight. Time to go home. Packed up. Ran back into the tent to place a couple of snails climbing the trellis.

You can only do your best. Many thanks to all who helped and contributed their precious flowers, and especially to Jason. If he wasn’t so tall, we would still be there wrestling with that material. Was our best good enough? Judge for yourselves. Next time we’ll do it better.

* Vanitas is the Latin for vanity, in the sense of emptiness or a worthless action. A vanitas is a particular type of still life painting in which objects symbolically refer to such a theme. For example, in Steenwyck’s ‘Allegory’ in the Collection, objects which suggest human achievements, like the book and instruments, are related to reminders of mortality: the lamp which has been snuffed out and the skull. (See the entry for Memento Mori.)

<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/glossary/vanitas>



photo Charles Wyvill

The Society's Garden Visits 2009

Hazel Hesketh

It was quite a long way to Morville but some nineteen or twenty members managed it, many staying overnight nearby although Malcolm Hainsworth made it in one day setting off from York at six a.m. The weather was cloudy but dry after the torrential downpours of the previous afternoon and evening. All the water had drained away by morning leaving the grass dry to walk on. Cars were parked in the churchyard of the Norman church, St Gregory, and people then walked the quarter of a mile or so to the Dower House through a side gate to Morville Hall. The scent of Musk Roses and Philadelphus Mock Orange Blossom garnished the path to the house where Dr. Kate Swift welcomed us with cups of coffee and homemade biscuits that she had been up at six a.m. to bake for us.

We entered the Dower House through the Printing Room with an Albion Press from Lincolnshire which Kate herself had used up to a decade ago. We were given leaflets with a plan of the garden and al-



Kate Swift serving the refreshments, 'aided' by Malcolm Hainsworth



The Albion Press

lowed to wander. Kate returned to England from Ireland in 1988 after spending some years in Trinity College, Dublin Library conserving mediaeval books. Leasing the house for twenty years she started to research its history before tackling the garden. She traced the history of the place back to the end of the Ice Age as described in her book 'The Morville Hours' and worked on one section of the garden at a time, so each area of the garden illustrates a different area of the house's history, the people who lived there and the plants that were newly introduced or popular at the time, so that the whole garden illustrates the history of Gardening in England through the centuries.



Looking back at the house from the garden (left)



Poppies (right)

Immediately outside the house was a knot garden and an avenue of apple trees leading to the front door. Painted poles reminded us of mediaeval times and chivalric emblems. Gorgeous poppies then greeted us with their glowing colours of purple and red. I gather Kate allows some plants like poppies and campanulas to seed at will in the beds so that the annuals repeat themselves each year, unwanted plants being pulled out when they were big enough to identify.

The more formal Canal Garden with its long water feature and carefully clipped box hedges enclosing beautifully shaped beds conjured up visions of Tudor times with their passion for Box and the exuberant planting suggested other passions. The timeless turf maze was at the centre of the garden so some folk picked their way round to the centre before stepping over the mown paths to make a bee-line for the next gap in the hedges. This section was inspired by Arthur Blayney, a gregarious man who might have remodelled it on the Elysée garden at Courtenay. The temple at Morville is dedicated to Hours, the classical goddess of the seasons rather than the Roman goddess Flora as at Elysée Nuneham Courtenay designed by the Rev. William Mason, a professor of poetry at Oxford. There are three asymmetrical borders with lush naturalistic planting and winding paths leading to a small Greek temple.



A view of the Canal garden

Each section had a stand giving information about whom that section of the garden represented and why those plants had been chosen. The Wild Garden was dedicated to Julianna Warren, the fifth and longest surviving daughter of Joseph Warren who died in 1928. It is divided into three wedge-shaped plots, one being an orchard of standard sized Apple trees and a nuttery of Sweet Chestnuts, Hazels and Walnuts underplanted with *Iris siberica*, Leucojums, Camassias and *Narcissus poeticus* plus a collection of wild Roses and native wild flowers, following William Robinson's ideas. There is also a more formal bed of Irises, Tree peonies and Wisterias. The Cloister Garden has a double row of Yews, the inner one forming a series of arches and columns and enclosing a central herber, a flowery mead with Paeonies, Lilies, Roses, Columbines and Cowslips as seen in old pictures of the Madonna like the one by Van Eyck at Ghent or in tales of courtly love.

From there we walked through a tunnel formed by Roses and Apple trees arching over the path, which was then crossed by another tunnel this time with pear trees. Each of the four corners was divided yet again into four, and the beds filled with different flowers or vegetables. There were also some striking forms of cow parsley or similar with red stems and huge yellow flower heads. The Victorian Rose border was to commemorate 1873,



An old rose

when Joseph Loxdale Warren came to live at Morville with his family and is full of nineteenth century roses such as Bourbon and Moss roses, Portland and Hybrid Perpetuals and *Rosa arvensis*, the myrrh-scented rose. Many of the roses are hung on ropes or poles following Rev. Shirley Hibberd's advice in *The Amateur's Rose Book* of 1874 to give height at the back of the border.

The Garden is clearly designed for all seasons from snowdrops and hellebores to old hyacinths, English Tulips and fruit blossom in Spring to an exuberance of lilies, roses, agapanthus and sweet peas in summer and harvest time rich in fruit and autumn colour of maple trees etc.

We went onto the Old Hundred Inn for lunch, an interesting old pub with its good food and old fashioned hole in a plank of wood toilets (modern toilets concealed beneath).

The weather had turned into a beautifully warm Summer's day and we found our way to Shropshire Lavender where we indulged in tea and delicious cakes that Joanna Spencer had made with lavender flowers, in a lovely garden among fields of sweet smelling lavender. Apparently all lavender flowers do not taste the same and Joanna finds Maille the best for cooking. She also has a wide variety of lavenders of different colours and heights as well as a good assortment of items made with Lavender and is planning to demonstrate how to distil lavender next year. They were very enjoyable visits for us as we dispersed and returned home using satnav or maps.



Tea at Shropshire Lavender

“When it’s Spring again

James Akers and Linda Chapman

In 2007 I was approached by Jan Pennings, a fellow member of the RHS Daffodil and Tulip Committee, in his capacity as a Vice-President of the Keukenhof Gardens in Holland. Would our Society put on a display in Holland in 2009 as part of the 60th anniversary of the Keukenhof? Having been encouraged by our Chairman Malcolm Hainsworth to always accept opportunities to publicise the Society, I had no hesitation in saying yes. We would take flowers from the 174th Annual Show to Holland in 2009.

So there we were on the Saturday evening of the show in three cars loaded with flowers driving along the M62 to catch the 9pm North Sea ferry from Hull to Rotterdam, Chris and Linda Bone, Mike and Linda Chapman and Wendy and me. With aid of three satellite navigation systems, one per car, the journey from Rotterdam went smoothly, although Chris was happy to be the ‘third’ car, as his sat-nav appeared to be convinced he wasn’t going to the Keukenhof – it persisted in telling him to turn round.



Some of the flowers in Chris Bone's car
photo Michael Chapman

After several anxious minutes wait in the car park, (had we come on the wrong day?), we were met by Ton Aker the Director of the Keukenhof. Ton escorted us in our cars through busy pedestrian walkways to the Orange Nassau Pavilion where we were joined by Teresa and Jason Clements and Tim and Elaine Lever who had flown over the previous evening. Two purple carousels were quickly wheeled out and display boards and flowers were arranged on them as can be seen in the picture on the front cover.

Ton then kindly treated us to lunch which we ate in his office. He explained to us about managing the park, (about 80 acres) which is only open for just eight weeks each year. This was their 60th anniversary and each year has a different theme, usually associated with a country. In 2009 the theme was *USA, New Amsterdam – New York, 400 years*. In addition to all the bulbs planted, every year the park sows 7,000 kilos of grass.

After lunch Ton gave us a guided tour of the park, showing us the replica of Clusius's garden after an original design of 1594. This garden included a bust of Clusius who brought the first tulips into the Netherlands. The flowers in the park were past their best, but those tulips still making a good display included Burgundy Lace (Fringed), Antoinette (multi-headed), Flaming Parrot and Dreamland. The lake had 12 swans which are leased each year.



The Clusius Garden
(photo Michael Chapman)

Michael Chapman, James Akers and Ton Aker
(photo Teresa Clements)

The visit was a great success attracting a great deal of interest from the visitors to the pavilion including many professional Dutch tulip growers. The Wakefield Express included a full page coverage of the show and visit entitled *Tulips to Amsterdam!* and we were also featured in an article in the Keukenhof's own publication. Teresa then received a few days later an email with photographs from Brazil via the Society's website from a lady who had been at the Keukenhof requesting further information on the flowers she had seen.

An opportunity was taken by a few of us while in the country to visit the Hortus bulborum. Although closed we were able to gain access because construction work was being carried out on the reception building and cafeteria. Though most of the tulips had been dead-headed including our breeders, we were surprised to see an area still in full flower of broken tulips including very large quantities of Mabel, Lady C Gordon and a flower purporting to be Columbine (it wasn't). If evidence was required to confirm the advice we give members to keep good breaks and their offsets and discard the dross, then here it was. None of the thousand or more flowers would have won a prize at our Annual show.

Obituary - Jack Taylor

Jack Taylor died on 4 June 2009 at the age of 74. He had been suffering from pancreatic cancer which had prevented him from judging the Open Classes at this year's Annual Show in the previous month.

Jack was a keen gardener and had a special relationship with the tulip which began at an early age. His father grew tulips, but not English Florists'; however, he was friendly with Frank Fox who did. Mr Fox, a leading member of the Society, grew his tulips in an old quarry near the Hark to Mopsey public house in Normanton. He set Jack up with his first Florists' Tulip bulbs.

Jack was very successful on the show bench, winning many of the Society's trophies over the years. He also had a very dry wit and I have great recollections of Society meetings that I attended at the time of the miner's strike. Jack worked at the pit and as we say in Yorkshire was 'a big union man'. The chairman Colin was, as is also said in Yorkshire, 'a rank Conservative'. At least one meeting seemed to be wholly devoted to Colin's wish to have a seedling named 'Margaret Thatcher' countered by Jack's proposal for an 'Arthur Scargill'.

At a time in the 1970/80s when there were few exhibitors, and even fewer judges, it was the practice for the show to be judged by a team of three exhibitors. At one such show a dispute arose among the three judges, Jack, Johnny Hardman and my father, over the merits of a small feathered flower, a seedling from Lord Stanley. Unfortunately the problem was not resolved and Jack left the Society. By this time Jack was growing well over 5,000 bulbs and had been the subject of an article in a Coal magazine, of which the Society is currently seeking a copy. These bulbs were given to a friend at Filey who died soon afterwards and the stock was lost. This included the last example of George Hayward in its breeder form. The loss of this stock was always a great regret to Jack.

Jack returned to the Society in the 1990s when once more there was a shortage of judges although he never exhibited again. For several years he judged with Jack Burton and then after JB died, was accompanied with other members to whom he (second left in photo at 2007 show) passed on his knowledge. Jack will be sorely missed but remembered through John Wainwright's seedling breeder, the Premier Bloom in the 2009 show and now named 'Jack Taylor'.



James Akers

An Unofficial (?) Guide at the Keukenhof Gardens in 2009

Don Palmer

In last year's Newsletter the Secretary told us about plans to take some winning entries to these gardens. I'd never been, although my daughter had and was very impressed, so here was an appropriate time for me to see this unique event. I live in Kent (5 miles from the Channel tunnel) and my daughter near Cambridge so I booked a flight on the Sunday after the show to fly from Stanstead to Amsterdam. With lots of driving I travelled at midday so it was evening by the time I reached my hotel in the centre of Leiden, which I saw from the map was the nearest town. The advantage of the internet was that I could choose a hotel within walking distance of the station. It also revealed that you could catch a coach from outside the station. The reality was even better with a cheaper (bus + entrance) ticket purchased from an office in the station entrance. The buses went every 20 minutes.

When I paid my subs at the annual show I asked the Treasurer what the Committee were doing in case I might see them there. As I wouldn't be able to get there till late on the Monday morning in seemed unlikely. When I arrived I wasn't too surprised that neither at the information kiosk outside the entrance nor at the entrance was anything known about the "invasion". There are 3 or 4 large buildings where displays occur but my first selection located a man who'd helped or had at least seen our tulips and redirected me to the right building - although because of all the landscaping with trees and paths going hither and thither I had to take care.

I naturally took a few photos similar to those shown at the AGM by those involved in their transport. By the time I'd finished I'd got into conversation with English speaking visitors for it's obviously visited by many tourists. This led to me explaining to several Dutch visitors the principle of non-commercial village flower shows. It also lead to talking to a group of Australians who'd broken a long journey from "Down-under" to England to visit relatives. Thy told me their plan was to visit the Chelsea flower show two days later.

Not too surprisingly I decided to stay for a couple of days longer to be a tourist. Although I'd visited several times this had been primarily for other reasons. I spent a day at Delft and had one day looking round Leiden. Leiden has a botanic garden with which I was unfamiliar but which was very interesting. It was the first University in the Netherlands being set up once they had freed themselves from the Spanish around the mid 14th Century.

Their first Botany professor was Clusius (in those days you took a Latin name); you'll find that his name is attached to a range of plants (I've a Crocus flowering in the garden now as I write). He received the first Tulip from Con-

stantinople in the Netherlands in 1592. They had a guide to their treasures in the garden, more particularly in the greenhouses, with the route signposted. I have added a couple of photos of other features.

A Laburnum by the courtyard entrance planted in Clusius's time. Also a "modern" tree built a few years ago from bric-a-brac. It's on the bank of the main canal around Leiden so I saw it a second time on a boat trip around.



As it's a University garden it has a series of systematic beds – these are plots with plants of the same family in them. Theirs is unique being laid out according to research based on very recent DNA studies (correct at 2005! Work continues). Later at the bookshop I bought a booklet they had written

(the English version was one euro cheaper!) describing some of their findings and how the traditional version has been changed. Probably the most reassuring result was that the Monocotyledons which include all the bulbs is still there but the grouping of families has changed.

A Glimpse into Dudmaston

Margot Murray

One of the trophies that can be won at the Society's Annual Show is the Dudmaston Plate, and the story behind it may not be well known to members. At one time, after the show on Saturday in Wakefield, the tulips in their entirety would be transported to Dudmaston in Shropshire and displayed there the following day (Sunday). They were received there with great interest and this continued for several years.

It came about when the Society made a garden visit to Dudmaston. (see the wonderful black and white photographs taken by the late Jack Wemyss-Cooke overleaf). Lady Rachel Labouchere, who lived at Dudmaston, expressed her regret at not being able to visit the show in Wakefield, whereupon James Akers magnanimously offered to "bring the show to you".

Dudmaston, now cared for by The National Trust, had long had a family interest in botany and botanical art. The Dudmaston Plate was inaugurated as a prize in 1995, by Sir George and Lady Labouchere and is awarded for the Best Bloom in the Novice Classes. Lady Labouchere is seen presenting the plate to Wendy Akers in another of Jack's photographs on the next page. Sir George and Lady Labouchere met while he was working for the Admiralty in 1942. His diplomatic career meant that they lived all over the world for 24 years, but settled at Dudmaston in 1966, when Rachel's uncle Geoffrey Wolryche-Whitmore moved out, having passed the estate to his niece in 1952.

Lady Labouchere was herself a trained botanical artist, and built up the collection in the house Botanical Art Gallery which includes work by Ehret and Redoute, together with more contemporary acquisitions. The corridor accessing the gallery is used to display a set of 16 prints of auriculas from C. Oscar Moreton's book on this species, which was given to Lady Labouchere by the artist Rory McEwen. A large table in the gallery holds a selection of some of the best and most famous books of Botanical Art, available to be handled and inspected by the public.

Other parts of the house display some important 18th century Dutch flower paintings. Examples by Jan van Huysum and Jan van Os hang in the library. There is an unforgettable painting of two little 17th century Dutch girls, dressed alike, one of whom is holding broken tulips, and the view through the window behind them is of a formal tulip garden of the period, with a vase of carnations and tulips in another corner of the picture.



If you are on this picture of the garden visit, then please let us know



Peter Royles, James Akers and Beryl Royles



Sir George and Rachel Lady Labouchere



Presentation of the Dudmaston Plate to Society Secretary Wendy Akers

Bulb Distribution 2009

Teresa Clements

This year I was involved in the practical side of bulb distribution for the first time. There were two sessions, one to distribute the breeder bulbs the Society had purchased from the *Hortus bulborum* and a second to distribute bulbs donated by members with sufficient stock to share.

We had expected the breeder bulbs to remain at the *Hortus bulborum* until James Akers made a trip to Holland to collect them, but Jason and I arrived home after a week away to find a note from a carrier saying they had tried and failed to deliver a package while we were out. We also had an email from Holland saying the bulbs had been despatched. We immediately went online to arrange delivery as soon as possible, I waited at home all that day, but no parcels arrived. A second attempt at organising delivery online didn't look any different to the first so I called the helpline, which by now was closed. The next day I rang the depot at 7am and after a lot of confusion – the parcel was “foreign” so didn't have a number on their system – I was assured the parcel would be delivered that day. Another day of waiting, more phone calls, no parcel. I was beginning to feel very anxious about this precious cargo of rare and valuable bulbs and called again very early the next day. More reassurance followed and after a third day of watching and waiting and more calls, the parcel finally arrived at ten to seven in the evening! What a relief!

The bulbs were apparently unharmed by their adventure and after checking they were good sized bulbs in fine condition we covered them up and kept them isolated in our cool porch to minimise any chance of infection with tulip breaking virus. Two weeks before the AGM, several Committee members gathered to wrap, label and pack the bulbs that had been ordered and they were posted the next day. The few remaining bulbs were kept for sale at the AGM.

The second bulb distribution was after the AGM when bulbs were sent to new members and to others who had sent in requests. Again a group of Committee mem-



Breeder bulbs—ready to go

bers gathered to sort through some good quality bulbs that had been given by Judy Baker, John Snocken, Marjorie Walkington, Timothy Clark, Mike Garrett, Glynn Marsh, Keith Eyre, James Akers, John Wainwright, and John Gibson. Their generosity enabled us to send out 46 packages of bulbs this year in addition to the 28 packages of bulbs from the *Hortus bulborum*, and that doesn't include a few packages that were collected by hand rather than posted. Royal Mail does rather well from our Society..

To return to some comments made at the AGM, the Society is keen to have as many members as possible take part in showing flowers. When it comes to the redistribution of bulbs we ask members to consider what bulbs they already have so that they can work out what they need to ask for to make up entries for different classes in the show. It makes distribution easier if you name specific varieties, every effort will be made to obtain them for you, but if some are unavailable then we might try to send alternative varieties of a similar colour. You might have to wait for some to become available or for a bulb to reach flowering size, but the aim is to encourage everyone to keep track of what they have and to increase their chance of showing. Specific requests are dealt with first during the redistribution, with priority being given to members who show, so by naming varieties you will get the pick of what is available before the non-specific requests are dealt with.

We had a couple of requests this year for Gleam and Sulphur, which were mentioned at the AGM. These varieties are easily confused with two others, Gleam with Goldfinder and Sulphur with James Wild. In order to identify and separate these varieties James reminded us to label all cut flowers, and the bulbs they were cut from, individually as they are cut. After the show, flowers that have been identified can be traced back to specific bulbs and these can then be relabelled with far greater confidence and, if necessary, kept separately from others. Flowers and bulbs can have labels tied to the stems, or flowers can be labelled by writing directly onto their stems, taking care to avoid damaging the stem and spoiling the flower for the show. It benefits the whole Society to know what stock we have and allows us to identify and preserve varieties not seen for some time.

Close-up on Colour

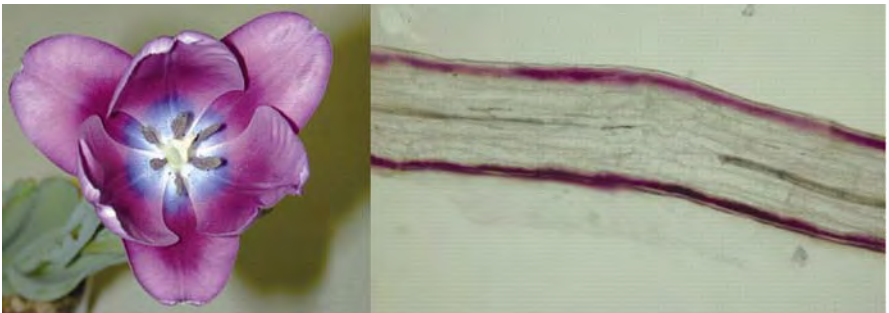
Teresa Clements

I have been reading a book called Nature's Palette, The Science of Plant Colour, by David Lee. It covers colour in plants from molecular structure to seasonal changes in vegetation patterns as seen from satellites and includes a few words about broken colour in tulips. There are two main types of colour in tulips; fla-

vonoids, which include the anthocyanins that give pink, red and blue colours, and carotenoids, which include carotene that gives a yellow colour. The flavonoids are soluble in water and are found in solution in the vacuole in the middle of the plant cell, the carotenoids are not so soluble in water and are bound to the membranes inside the cell. A good demonstration of this is to compare what happens if you peel a carrot and a beetroot and put them in water, the beetroot will turn the water bright pink as the colour (the anthocyanins) leaks out of the damaged cells, but the carrot does not turn the water bright orange to an equivalent extent as its colour (the carotenoids) stays bound to the cell membranes and doesn't leak out.

If you look at a tulip petal under the microscope, you can see the colour is confined to the cells on the outer surface. The picture below shows *Tulipa Murasakisuisho* and a section across a petal.

This outer layer is where the pattern in broken tulips is created. Tulip petals grow by expansion from the central area of the petal, cells in this region divide to make new cells that move out towards the edge of the petal. Some plant viruses, such as Tulip Breaking Virus (TBV), can infect individual dividing cells causing them to lose the ability to form anthocyanins. Daughter cells arising from the infected cells inherit the inability to form anthocyanin resulting in colonies of cells that are arranged side by side to give the fine streaking we know as flames and feathers. The ability to form carotenoids remains unaffected by the virus; so bizarre tulips with yellow base colour keep their yellow background.



This is far from the whole story; the pattern may be explained by the growth of cells affected by TBV, but what about the intensity of colour? We have seen delicately coloured bybloemen breeder bulbs break to give flames that are almost black, so it isn't simply the absence of anthocyanins that produces the flames but appears to be the intensification of colour in those cells that do have pigments. It could be that TBV has a dual effect on the distribution of anthocyanins, so that they are absent in some cells and present in even greater quantities in others.

A look at the inside and outside of the petals of the far from perfect specimen of Talisman in the picture below shows the pattern of cell growth and the range of colour intensity from the anthocyanins. It also shows how the inner and outer surfaces of each petal have different patterns. English Florists' tulips have been bred to have an open cup shape, like half a tennis ball, so that the inner pattern can be seen clearly when judging.



The pictures of *Tulipa Murasakuisho* in the first picture came from a Japanese scientific paper, written in 2007, about the blue and purple colour of the petals. The research showed that the composition of the cells from the blue and purple regions of the petals was exactly the same with respect to anthocyanins and that the pH of the vacuole was 5.5 in the purple region and 5.6 in the blue region, not a significant difference. However, the concentration of iron ions (Fe^{3+}) was 25 times higher in the cells of the blue regions than in the purple. After further experiments it was concluded that these ferric ions were essential for development of the blue colour.

This could give us some clues about the effect of TBV, it might not simply come down to whether there are anthocyanins in the cells or not. Other factors, such as pH and the accumulation of other ions in the cells, might be affected by TBV. This could then cause changes in the molecular structure of the anthocyanins leading to the variations in colour we all recognise.

I have tried to find out more about this, but so far I have drawn a blank. I am not sure that the information is out there in the first place, I suspect that this is probably quite a minority interest and not at the forefront of cutting edge research!

Just a Spoonful of Sugar

Teresa Clements

While I was looking at scientific papers I found a paper that included some comments on the longevity of cut tulip flowers. The researchers found that, adding sugar to the water the flowers were standing in, extended the period before wilting from 11 days (distilled water) to 13 days (sucrose added). Petal drop in the same two groups was extended from 13 days to 16 days. The water/sugar solution was changed every 12 hours, but the important point to remember is the concentration of the sugar solution, it was 10mM, that is 10 millimolar, or to you and me, fairly weak.

Going back to school science, a Molar solution contains the molecular weight in grams of the solute in one litre of water. Sucrose has a molecular weight of 342, so a 10 millimolar solution would have 3.42g in one litre of water. I tried to weigh 3.42g on my kitchen scales and could only do a rough approximation but, conveniently, it worked out at about one level teaspoonful. That seems quite a small amount in one litre, but that's what the paper recommended.

I have heard flower arrangers talk of adding lemonade to the water for cut flowers and often there is a packet of flower food included with cut flowers sold in supermarkets, which I suspect is mainly sugar. Too much sugar might dehydrate the plant tissue and cause it to wilt more quickly, so it is something to be tried with caution. It might be worth experimenting with for those of us who have to cut flowers and keep them before showing. The sugar provides energy for the movement of petals in response to changes in temperature. Minimising movement by keeping cut flowers at a constant temperature can preserve energy and prolong their life as those members of the Society who have had to employ commercial chiller cabinets to hold their cut flowers before the Annual Show will already know.

A Dark and Stormy Night

Ulf Hansson

Cultivating tulips can be very dramatic. I stored the bulbs you sent me in a paper-box on my balcony. Over the last weekend there was a storm sweeping over Halmstad. Monday I noticed that the box was not on its place on the balcony but worse, there were no bulbs. I found some of them, at last, fixed in the opening between the rail and the floor on the balcony, but many were still missing. Under my balcony there's a small parking lot and I ran down to search its area off. Under a Volvo I found James Akers and under a collapsed barbeque grill I found Airey and Jack Taylor. After ten desperate minutes I lost just one: Lemuria. I get

back to my balcony and spied over the neighborhood (one of the bulbs, a Nectar was found over 50 metres away) Finally I looked down, on the balcony below, and there, in another bigger box I found the last bulb Lemuria. All were recovered. None off the bulbs had lost its paper-bag or name tag.



The Photography Competition

Teresa Clements

The Photography Competition provided us with an interesting display at the AGM. Eight people entered photos for the English Florists' Tulips section and eleven for the Any Other Tulip section, giving us seventeen English and twenty AOT photographs to choose from. The standard of photography was very good and composition of the pictures surprisingly varied, from beautifully lit close-up shots to views of blooms in front of real or digitally altered backgrounds. We asked people at the AGM to vote for their favourite three photos in each section and 35 people voted.

The winner of the English section was Linda Chapman with 17 votes and the runner-up was Nigel Harrison with 14 votes. Louise Young won the AOT section, again with 17 votes, and the runner-up was Keith Knight with 14 votes.

There isn't enough space to reproduce all the photos, but here are the winners and runners-up. The winning photographs will be used for greetings cards for sale on our sales table.



1. -Linda Chapman's winning English entry is a Rose Flame against a grey background that acts as a plain foil to the bright colour of the flower.
2. -Runner-up Nigel Harrison also has a plain grey background for his photograph of broken Bizarre tulip in a beer bottle.
3. -Louise Young said of her winning AOT entry that a lily-flowered tulip in her garden, possibly Maytime, must have caught the tulip breaking virus to produce the fantastic result in this photograph. She said she knew it was all wrong, but that it had been a talking point and she had had enjoyed painting it. The background is Compton Verney in Warwickshire.
4. -Runner-up in the AOT section Keith Knight sent a clear, sharp picture of the parrot tulip Texas Flame brightly lit against a white background.



A Little More Potty

Harry Fogg

Although I now grow nearly all my tulips in pots, it is many years since I started trying to force a few for a local show in March, a seemingly impossible task. After trying some dwarf early flowering hybrids recommended for this purpose with mixed results, I hit upon the idea of the species, short, early and hopefully very attractive, I always favour the species in anything. My first was *Tulipa clusiana*, it grew to four inches in height, as stiff and upright as a guardsman, and perfectly out for the show. I have never had anything half as good since, not even the now readily available selections of *T. clusiana*.

Thirty years later a class for a bowl of a species was introduced at Harrogate, arousing memories and desires, and a few of those around four inches in height (easier to transport) were planted. It became apparent that they grew well, didn't like being in a greenhouse or being forced, and had just a few days in prime show condition, indeed one of my first bowls was staged on Wednesday night looking good, and by judging time had flopped into a sorry spectacle. The answer could be to grow so many different types that at least one should be ready on the day, a good excuse to try them all.

On the plus side, apart from their cheapness compared to say a snowdrop, is the fact that they thrive in an alpine bowl, and will flower well for several years without re-potting, suiting the lazy gardener. The one exception seems to be *T. clusiana*. I had a lovely bowl that I neglected to water for a few days and stems flopped around the edge. They recovered very well and went on to flower, but the stems remained bent down then curved upwards, making them more suitable for a hanging basket class. I have replanted all *T. clusiana* into normal depth pots and they seem much happier.

The species get the same compost and sand layer treatment as their bigger brothers, and it occurred to me as I potted my bulbs that the Dutch are now growing theirs by the same method, the bulbs planted in sand and the roots going down to find the soil below. They must have read one of my articles.

2008 The Year of the Rat

Peter Royles

No! The year of the virus. At our show this year, several of the exhibitors reported large numbers of breeders had broken. The virus (viruses) is usually spread by greenfly feeding on virus infected tulips, then feeding on breeders which themselves become infected. Only a minute quantity of virus is injected which has minimal effect initially. Signs of the virus showing up on maybe one small area of a petal is the norm. It would appear that the very high temperature in April 2007 triggered a rapid increase in the growth of the virus with devastation of our breeder stock.

One thing is certain, breeders are again going to be in short supply. There is a simple solution. If all members of the Society pollinated just one flower, the problem would be solved. It is such a simple process. Pollen is transferred from one flower to another. Why not ask your children or grandchildren to do it for you. They will love it. Remember they are the florists of the future. It does take 6 or 7 years from seed to flowering sized bulbs, but do it every year and the following 7 years will be a period of great expectation. The thrill of seeing your flower on the show bench is well worth the wait. To see one of your seedlings being the Premier Breeder and Premier Bloom in show is the thrill of a lifetime. I have experienced it.

The method I use has given me some success. The seed takes a long period to fully develop, so I plant my prospective parents in pots and grow them in my greenhouse. They usually flower in mid-April. I pollinate as soon as possible when both parents are open. Pollination can be done by using a small brush to transfer the pollen onto the stigma. I prefer to use a small pair of tweezers, removing one pollen pad and carefully rubbing the pad onto the stigma of the sec-

ond flower. I do this every other day until all 6 pollen pads have been used. This covers a 10 day period and ensures the stigma is pollinated when it is most receptive. Pollination is usually done in the early afternoon when any dew that formed during the night has evaporated. I expect to harvest at least 100 fertile seeds from each cross.

After pollination, a small paper bag is placed over the pollinated flower, all the petals having been first removed. The bottom of the bag is sealed with a twist-it to prevent insects entering the bag. When the stem has detached itself from the bulb, I place the stem and the attached large seed pod still within the paper bag in an empty vase in the house. The stem should be entirely straw coloured. This is usually in August.

In October, the stem is broken off and the bag shaken vigorously to separate the seed from the chaff. The contents of the bag are then placed on a clean surface and the seed picked up with tweezers on a latex gloved hand and placed into a small envelope. The parents of the cross are written on to the envelope. The seed is never touched with bare hands.

In February, the packet of seed is placed in a sealed container and put into a domestic refrigerator, but not in the freezer compartment. After 6 weeks the seed is sown, lightly covering the seed with compost. Foliage is usually seen 4 weeks later. The very tiny bulbs that are formed in the first year are left in the pot, water being withheld when the foliage shows signs of dying. In the Autumn, the pot is knocked out and the bulbs replanted in fresh compost. Again the bulbs are not handled with bare hands. This process is repeated until the third or fourth year when the bulbs are planted in the open ground.

The following crosses have given good results:- Sam Barlow x James Wild, Goldfinder x Sam Barlow, Akers x Juliet, but the best results have been from Adonis used as a seed parent. It produces a large number of good flowers, no matter which bybloemen is used as the pollen parent.



A painting of Adonis by Celia Hegedus

photo James Akers

I look forward to seeing you in 2016 with your prize-winning flowers. Please contact me at the show, you will easily recognise me. Look for a very sprightly 92 year-old, chatting up the ladies, that is assuming of course, that St Peter does not call for me to advise the angels how to grow old English Florists' Tulips in the celestial gardens. To show that I practice what I preach, I have taken the tweezers out of retirement and pollinated one tulip. Beryl will not be pleased when she finds out.

Midland Tulip Society Report

After a successful trip to the garden at Malmesbury in April and the following Saturday at the annual show, the public house filled to overflowing with flowers, and the public. I feel that the efforts given by the people involved is worthy of praise.

I must mention at this point the kindness of the judge Mr Keith Eyre who comes all the way from the Hull area to officiate, without expense to the Society. As promised in the previous newsletter the Society finances amount to £1,661 divided between the Nationwide and Barclay's banks, there being a steady increase in the accounts since the Society came into being.

It is proposed to go to the Royal Horticultural Spring Show at Cardiff on the 17th April 2010 starting from the Forester's Tavern at 08:30hrs. If you would like to come please get into contact if you have not previously done so, you will be most welcomed. The castle is near by, also the town centre; just hoping the weather will be fine. The cost is £20 this includes entry to the show. It is a prediction that the weather in the future will be hotter dry summers and warmer wetter winters. Such climate extremes have posed serious challenges to plants such as the primulas and violets.

I am in the process of lifting my tulips and selecting the largest for replanting for next season, finding due to the continual rainfall that a large quantity are above average size. The tulip will have a better future if good drainage can be given to the bulb on replanting. Further information can be had, including breakdowns on how changes may impact your region. <http://ukcp09.defra.gov.uk>.

Wishing you all the best.

Trevor Mills
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Telephone No 01543 683452

Tulips and Tail- pieces

Robbie Robertson

In the summer, the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle hosted a travelling exhibition of Thomas Bewick's tail-pieces, even providing magnifying glasses to view them.

Looking at some of my wood engravings I hit a problem: tulips are vertical! I can do no better than end with a tail-piece of my own: the others will need to be printed elsewhere.

(they make excellent side-pieces—Editor)



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