

**WAKEFIELD  
&  
NORTH OF ENGLAND  
TULIP SOCIETY**

**ESTABLISHED 1836**

**NEWSLETTER**



**NO 22  
AUTUMN 2010**

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

OFFICERS 2009-2010

- PRESIDENT                    The Duke of Devonshire KVCO, CBE, DL
- PATRONS                      K N Eyre, J L Akers MBE
- HON LIFE MEMBERS        Mrs A Turner, P Turner
- VICE PRESIDENTS        P Emmett, T Mills, 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, M Hainsworth  
T Mitchell, Ms M Murray, Mrs B Pickering, J Wainwright.
- EDITOR                        Mrs W M Akers
- SOCIETY WEBSITE        [www.tulipsociety.co.uk](http://www.tulipsociety.co.uk)

Annual Subscriptions – Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2011 become due on the date of the Annual Show May 2011 and are for the sum of £5 per Member, £6 for Family Membership and £50 for Life Membership

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**The photograph of the 175th Anniversary Cake on the front cover was taken by Morris Robinson**

## Editorial

Wendy Akers

What a super newsletter, thanks must go to all the people who have sent in their contributions, it would be nothing without them. It would also be nothing without the techie input from James, it is so time consuming setting the text and pictures so that the whole book can go to the printers on a disc, or can even be emailed if necessary. How on earth information flies around in space is a complete mystery to me. Okay, telephones were at least connected with wires, back in the day, but now you can stand in the middle of a field and chat to someone standing in a field in Russia. I have a new piece of kit, an Ereader, Amazon Kindle, like a flat piece of plastic with a screen that looks like paper and ink. Using something called Whispernet I can download a book in a microsecond, talk about instant gratification, big up the text size so that I can read it comfortably and carry on reading and eating an apple. It might as well be magic, as far as I'm concerned, it is.

Once again, Malcolm our chairman doesn't look like getting his long standing wish, that we "have a quiet year" next year. What with the garden visit being in Sweden and a reconnoitring visit to Uzbekistan to see tulips in the wild we seem to be casting our endeavours ever wider. It should make for some interesting articles in next year's Newsletter. Anyone who is addicted to Kurt Wandler and the enticing landscape of Sweden that makes the films of the Henning Mankell books so delightful will find the trip irresistible. Ulf Hansson and his friends sent us this picture of the welcoming committee that they have formed, standing in an orchard smiling, it makes me smile every time I look at it.

Barbara Perraudin who has died, aged 90, was a dear friend, as was Ray her husband who pre-deceased her. They were a quietly powerful force in Wakefield on behalf of threatened buildings or areas that seemed as though they might be swept away in the name of progress. I

called on them one day a few years ago and found Ray reading aloud Proust, in the original French, to Barbara, and it summed up their life together, one of quiet pleasure in each others company, a precious gift.

Thanks to our proofreaders, Barbara and Jeff Pickering and Teresa. Finally, Harry's piece about his battles will make you smile.



# Chairman's Report

Malcolm Hainsworth

What a special year this has been! Our Society rose to the challenge of celebrating our 175th anniversary with an exceptionally ambitious and full programme. Our Secretary's report, the articles which follow and the many appreciative letters we have received confirm our success. I have been greatly heartened by the wonderful support from both members and the committee. It makes me proud and thankful to be amongst them.

A further source of pride was the gift by Harriet Gash of an engraved Chairman's gavel. This is a fine addition to our treasures. I am confident that it will endow the office, and my successors in it, with an authority which has thus far been denied me.

Horbury welcomed the return of the show and proved to be an excellent venue for both an exceptional show and sumptuous feast. We regretted the absence of our President but everyone agreed that it was a splendid evening with good company, food and wine. The following day and in a similar vein, Keith and Jane treated us to what has been described as the visual equivalent of a tutored tasting of First Growth Bordeaux wines. A huge amount of effort from our members made the weekend a tribute to our Society.

More recently I listened with surprise and pleasure to the Ballad of Sam Barlow composed and sung by our North American member Ed Wall. If only I

could compose an aria cantabile for Julia Farnese. I cannot, alas, but I can look back as we all can, to a great year in the Society's history. And I can look forward eagerly too, to the show of course, but also to the WEA Tulip Day in Norfolk and to further garden visits as pleasurable as that at Levens Hall organised by Joanna Spencer. I'm waiting to read Peter Royles' book *Enjoy your Todays* – he has certainly done so to our great benefit. I'm also keen to follow Leslie Leijenhorst's account of the Hortus Bulborum. We are grateful for these donations to our library.



Malcolm during the Garden Visit  
(photo Robin Spencer)

The return and redistribution of bulbs is another annual task for the usual half dozen or so members. We do try very hard to satisfy member requests – sometimes it is impossible with our rarer bulbs, certainly so with varieties that no longer exist. Each year some members lose their bulbs to mice. I think they are rare and valuable enough to warrant secure storage (the bulbs not the mice). The team works systematically and neatly apart from me. Over seventy parcels were assembled and then wrapped, labelled, parcelled, weighed and posted by Jason and Teresa. I'm sure their efforts are appreciated.

If you find offsets amongst the flowering sized bulbs in your parcel, please be patient. They are likely to come from different “mother” bulbs of the same variety and may vary in some interesting detail so they are well worth growing on. Within a couple of years you will have enough to please you.

We should all be encouraged by the strength of the Society, which is well reflected in this superb newsletter. I wish I could record that I was in such good shape. My bulbs are ready for planting and I hope in better order than last year. Alas the plot - looking good after the potato harvest- has, after what I considered a brief period of neglect, reverted to wilderness.

## Minutes of AGM 2 October 2010

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

### Presentation of the Gavel

Before the meeting opened, society member Harriet Gash formally presented the Chairman with a gavel to mark the 175th Anniversary of the Annual Show. The Chairman thanked Harriet for her thoughtfulness and generosity and used the gavel to bring the assembly to order and start the meeting.



The new gavel  
(photo James Akers)

### Chairman's welcoming remarks

Malcolm Hainsworth welcomed members to the meeting. He also particularly thanked the catering volunteers who work so hard to provide those attending the AGM with an excellent lunch.

The death of Colin Marsh, a long-standing member of the society, was marked with a tribute from Keith Eyre.

**Apologies for absence** were received from twenty members, including Anna Pavord, Jonathan Cooke and Sue Dickinson, Bob Taylor, Mike and Jacqui Garrett, Jean and David Richardson.

### **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.

There were no questions arising from the Treasurer's report and the accounts were formally accepted by a show of hands.

### **Election of Officers**

President           The Duke of Devonshire KCVO CBE DL

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 Wendy Akers, Mrs Anne Smales, Ms Sarah Akers, Mrs B Pickering, J Wainwright, M Hainsworth.

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.

There were no nominations for any of the posts. The Chairman suggested that the current officers, listed as above, were re-elected. He welcomed anyone who would like to serve on the Committee and invited volunteers to contact a Committee member. The election was approved.

### **Dates of Shows and Events**

These appear in The Secretary's Report.

### **Any Other Business**

- Ivor Fox commented on the society's display at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show. He complimented the outstanding artistry and attention to detail, and said he felt it was unrivalled at RHS shows he had attended

and was worthy of more than its prize. He hoped the society would enter the competition again.

- David Day asked if there was any news of a report about growth irregularities seen in the breeder bulbs bought from the *Hortus Bulborum* in 2009. The printed report appears later in the newsletter.
- David Day pointed out the lack of space for staging tulips at the Annual Show. This was a new venue and we had an unprecedented number of exhibitors. More tables will be provided next year.
- Malcolm Hainsworth announced that James and Wendy Akers have generously provided the society with a new storage shed in their garden. This will hold the crates of bottles, vases and would have space for some trestle tables as well. Tables can be bought cheaply and it might be less expensive to buy some than to hire each year. Margaret and Roy Mitchell then offered us the free loan of tables from Wrenthorpe Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 12.50 for lunch.

## Secretary's Report 2010

Teresa Clements

This year's report reads like the speech of an Oscar winner. The list of thanks goes on and on. Here are the most notable events and I apologise in advance for any I have missed.

### **Harrogate Spring Flower Show.**

The society entered the competition for displaying an Educational Stand. The title we eventually arrived at was *Flowers in the Picture*. The entry featured a magnificent flower arrangement as the centrepiece of two display boards about tulips in art. This was the first time the society had entered the competition and we won a silver-gilt award, which came with a large helping of glory and £160 towards our funds. There is real artistry in putting these displays together, and Carole Gude, who arranged the flowers, and Margot Murray, who composed the display, did us proud and produced a fine show, we are very grateful to both of them. I am sure Carole would also want me to thank the people who brought auriculas, fritillaries, tulips, branches of blossom and much more, to give the display that authentic Old Master style.

There were more entries for the show at Harrogate than last year, which was a relief as everything was late after the hard winter and few people had anything ready. Next year is the centenary of the Harrogate Spring Flower Show and we have been asked to make it a special event, so once again I am appealing to

you to have a go and help to fill the showbench with flowers. In 2011, the show will be as early in the year as it ever gets, 14 - 17 April, so plan ahead and choose some varieties that flower early.

### **Other Events**

The society had a stand at the Constable Burton Tulip Festival, the Chatsworth Florabundance Event, the RHS Harlow Carr Tulip Festival and, later in the year, The Great Yorkshire Show (thanks to Ivor and Barbara Fox who donated part of their stand to us). A lot of work goes into these events, creating displays, producing flowers early and late in the season, and transporting, setting up and retrieving display boards. Many thanks to all those who took part. After these events, the committee discussed whether we were taking on too much and how the society benefits from this activity. We hope this year has been an exceptional year and that we may not have to spread ourselves so thinly in the future.

### **The 175th Annual Show - 8 May 2010**

There was some apprehension as we contemplated the showbench being very sparsely populated with flowers for our big anniversary event. Winter snow had meant some people were still planting bulbs in January and February, those who had their bulbs in early saw them locked into the ground with ice for weeks on end. Wendy assured us that we had never not had a show, but it was a tense wait. Wendy was right, once again we saw a long bench of beautiful English Florists' Tulips and an impressive array of Dutch tulips that meant Keith had to judge a class with 41 entries! There were 46 exhibitors, an unprecedented number, so not only did our members manage to find the new venue, Primrose Hall, but they had plenty of flowers to bring with them. The show date has to be set a year in advance, so there is always going to be an element of uncertainty about whether flowers will be too early or too late. Yearly variations in weather bring different challenges and there must be at least a two week North/South difference in flowering time. Two weeks after the show there was a lovely selection of flowers on the table at the post-show committee meeting. A similar late blooming no doubt occurred in many members' gardens, with thoughts of what might have been showable, given time. Our thanks go to those skilled growers who manage produce crates of flowers for the show every year, regardless of all the setbacks. Thanks also to Anna Pavord, who drove up from Dorset and with very little notice made a touching speech paying tribute to these very growers before presenting the prizes.

Fifty eight people attended the celebratory dinner that followed the show, which was a real Tulip Feast. Tables were set up alongside the showbenches and, again thanks to Carole Gude, the table settings were magnificent. The celebration cake was a fantastic piece of artistry, with perfect, miniature English Florists'

tulips made from sugar. We toasted absent friends, so no one was forgotten, and afterwards everyone said how much they had enjoyed the evening.

Then there was the Second Day of the Show. People returned and some who couldn't join us on Saturday came along for a good look at the flowers. About fifty people gathered for a talk by Keith Eyre and Jane Green. We all walked around the show together and they commented on judging decisions and the merits, or faults, of the blooms. There was advice on cultivation, preparing the blooms for showing and how to select flowers for the different classes in the schedule. This kind of insight is invaluable, people asked questions that were answered with care and good humour, and we all came away feeling we had benefitted from what we had heard. Now, to put it into action! Many thanks to Keith and Jane and also to Val Eyre, who held the fort in the kitchen all day.

The 175th Annual Show celebrations were such a success because of the planning and work that went into them beforehand and over the weekend. I can't reel off the full list of names, but you know who you are – thank you! The new venue, Primrose Hall, has been booked for next year's show, I would like to thank Christine Cudworth, who runs the hall, for her tireless efforts on our behalf.

### **Awards**

Congratulations to James and Wendy who, in January, were awarded the RHS Peter Barr Memorial Cup for their work on the RHS Daffodil and Tulip Year book.

In June, James was awarded the RHS Harlow Carr Medal, which is conferred on persons who have made a significant contribution to horticulture in the North of England.

Our warm congratulations to both James and Wendy.

### **New Book**

Work on the new book to replace the latest edition of English Florists' Tulips into the 21st Century has begun. James took a set of photographs of flowers at the 175th Annual Show to use in the book to update the list of varieties. We hope to include a timeline of significant people and events and updated notes on the cultivation of English Florists' Tulips. The committee was unanimous in the view that there is no need to include any notes on Dutch tulips. If you have any comments on what you would like to see included, or any contributions, please contact James.

### **Archiving**

A substantial collection of papers and artefacts have accumulated over the years and we have started the process of archiving them. Several of the committee met and sorted through some of the more recent letters in June of this year. The Chairman and Secretary visited Chris Webb, the Keeper of Archives at York

University on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Chris answered our questions about what can be stored, how and where it is stored and about access to it once it has been archived. He showed us the new storage area, which has a controlled environment and modern safety and security features. Chris explained the difference between donating and depositing items, the society would be depositing material for safekeeping but not giving up ownership.

Chris sent templates for the agreement that would be drawn up between the York Institute and the Society and the copyright licence relating to the material held on our behalf. The committee have given their general approval and hope to set up the archive in the coming year.

### **Events and shows in 2011**

Harrogate Spring Flower Show. – 14 - 17 April, Centenary Year 2011.

The Midland Tulip Show. - tba

Constable Burton Tulip Festival – Sat 30 April to Mon 2 May

The RHS Tulip Show - 26 - 27 April, Wisley

The Annual Show - 14 May, Primrose Hall, Horbury.

The Norfolk WEA Tulip Day – 26 May, 10am – 4pm.

The society visit to the Linnaeus Garden in Sweden 17 – 19 June.

The AGM – Saturday 1 October 2011.

### **Linnaeus Garden, Sweden – 18 June 2011.**

There are a group of members in Sweden who have formed a committee to organise a visit to the Linnaeus Garden in Sweden. The society has been sent an official invitation and so far 20 members have said they would like to go. The visit will take place over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 June 2011. For further details, see later. If you think you would like to join us, please let me know as soon as possible.

If you thought the visit to Sweden was ambitious, there has been a tentative suggestion of a group visit to Uzbekistan to see tulips growing in the wild in April 2012. Do let me know if you might be interested.

### **Email to members**

Last year we talked about the use of email to contact the membership and I would like to thank all those who have been in touch and have moved from the postal mailing list to the email list. I can only encourage more people to do this as corresponding by email is so much easier for me than printing, labelling and posting a letter. I accept that we have members who will never convert to computers and keyboards and that's fine. Also we will stick to a printed and posted version of the newsletter and we can't email bulbs! However, do let me know if you are willing to use email and don't already.

## **Final Thanks**

At the end of a long report, there are still some people to thank. In particular I want to thank that band of people who grow and maintain the stocks of tulips, without them there wouldn't be a WNETS. These are the unsung heroes who quietly get on with the vital work of preserving these lovely old varieties of tulips for all of us and for the next generation. We truly are indebted to those growers who do the vital and painstaking work of cultivation and propagation of bulbs while people like me spend time on displays and dinners.

This has been a special anniversary year, there has been a succession of events, a wide range of people throughout the society have contributed in different ways, donating the magnificent gavel, a book, storage space, cakes, bulbs, wine for the dinner, raffle prizes, setting up displays, organising visits, giving their time and expertise. The society is extremely fortunate in having this wealth of talent and goodwill. As the Secretary, I can see that the society benefits greatly from the generosity and talents of its members, but that's not all, it is clear that it is held in great affection by many members, and that, as they say in adverts, is priceless. Long may it continue.

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Jason Clements**

I have made a slight change to the layout of the accounts (see right), which I hope will make them clearer and more informative.

The first point to note is that although an overall deficit of £180.80 is shown, the underlying finances remain healthy.

To justify this, I would point to a number of exceptional payments we have made this year. These include a new large display stand (shown under Purchases) - to support the increased number of venues we have been asked to attend this year, a large roll of black plastic to cover show benches (included under Show Materials) – which at 150m will probably last us a decade, and a new set of show card holders (likewise). Not least, a contribution of about £300 from funds was made to support the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary Tulip Feast. A little extravagance, but I'm sure those who attended would agree it was well worth while – and it's something we hadn't done for 25 years!

Both main streams of our income show positive trends. Membership continues to show a gradual rise and this is reflected in the income from subscriptions remaining healthy. These are almost matched by profit from the Sales tables which brought in over £660 during the year.

## Statement of Accounts for Year ending 31st July 2010

*Reviewed by our auditor Ivor Fox*

Receipts			Payments		
	2010	2009		2010	2009
<b>Subs &amp; Donations</b>			<b>Administration</b>		
Subscriptions	1,056.00	1,048.41	Newsletter (printing)	550.00	587.94
Donations	179.50	209.60	Insurance	186.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,235.50</b>	<b>1,258.01</b>	Stationery	113.16	41.33
			Photocopying & printing	122.22	141.50
			Postage	365.68	306.33
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1,337.06</b>	<b>1,077.10</b>
<b>Sales Table</b>			<b>Purchases</b>		
AGM	36.80	162.10	Harrogate expenses	46.50	
Harrogate	228.22	149.35	Library Books	33.00	35.00
Constable Burton	185.60	176.30	Display stands and material	216.15	
Main Show	256.30	169.80	Sales table	417.54	352.85
Great Yorks Show	160.51		Calendars	237.70	438.96
Postal	213.45	337.07	<b>Total</b>	<b>950.89</b>	<b>826.81</b>
Calendars	240.00	354.00			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,320.88</b>	<b>1,348.62</b>			
<b>Bulbs</b>			<b>Bulbs</b>		
Hortus bulb sales	621.00		Annual distribution	84.15	77.53
Dutch bulbs at AGM	288.28		Breeders from Hortus	467.63	
<b>Total</b>	<b>909.28</b>		Dutch bulbs for AGM	381.69	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>933.47</b>	<b>77.53</b>
<b>AGM &amp; Shows</b>			<b>AGM &amp; Shows</b>		
Raffle	292.15	245.00	Hall hire	451.00	163.00
Refreshments	285.66	182.00	Crockery & Food	77.61	110.11
Plant sales	57.80	81.85	Trophies: Engraving & Purchase	202.00	150.64
Prize money	237.00	69.00	Prize Money	90.00	83.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>872.61</b>	<b>577.85</b>	Show materials	209.75	23.92
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1,030.36</b>	<b>530.67</b>
<b>Bank</b>			<b>Other</b>		
Interest	3.43	8.30	Misc expenses	5.00	164.39
Dividends	37.39	63.50	Outstanding from last year		673.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.82</b>	<b>71.80</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>837.69</b>
<b>Special Events</b>			<b>Special Events</b>		
Tulip Feast	1,425.00		Tulip Feast	1,728.11	
Symposium		300.50	Symposium		270.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,425.00</b>	<b>300.50</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,728.11</b>	<b>270.00</b>

**Operating surplus/deficit**

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,804.09</b>	<b>3,556.78</b>	<b>5,804.09</b>	<b>3,619.80</b>
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Statement of Assets			
	2010	2009	Change
<b>Cash Assets</b>			
Current Account	3,648.58	3,904.15	-255.57
Abbey Account	3,455.33	3,414.51	40.82
Unpresented cheques	-117.60		-117.60
Cash in hand	173.64	22.09	151.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,159.95</b>	<b>7,340.75</b>	<b>-180.80</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>			
Santander Shares	736.70	764.96	-28.26
Sales table stock	1,092.79	1,242.53	-149.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,829.49</b>	<b>2,007.49</b>	<b>-177.99</b>

A few individual items deserve further brief comment:

The cost of hiring halls for the AGM and annual show has jumped from £163 in 2008/09 to £451 in 2009/10. This was largely because we hired Primrose Hall for two days – for the annual show, the Tulip Feast in the evening, and also on the following day for the judges’ comments on the entry. This is again an exceptional arrangement, one we will not be repeating next year.

This year we were able to mount a small display and open the sales table at the Great Yorkshire Show, a venue we do not normally attend – allowing us to take £160.51 in sales. This was due to the generosity of Ivor Fox, who made a portion of his Miniature Bulbs stand available to us.

The prize money receipts include £160 from winning a Silver Gilt medal at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show, so the remarkable display was profitable financially, as well as aesthetically and educationally!

Looking at the Bulbs section, one can see a loss of about £93 in the Dutch bulbs sold at the 2009 AGM. I don’t have a ready explanation for this, except to note that there was something of a surplus of bulbs available to buy.

This has been a busy year for the society, and this is reflected in the jump of over 63% in the total cash movements during the year (£5,804 compared to £3,556 the previous year). However, we are fortunate to retain substantial cash balances of over £7,000. These will stand us in good stead over the coming year when we expect to make a significant investment in publishing a new edition of the English Florists’ Tulip book.

### **Auditor’s comments**

I confirm that I have examined the ledgers, receipts, bank accounts and associated documents except for the purchase of Dutch bulbs and believe that the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 July 2010 appears to be in order.

## **Library Report**

**Margot Murray**

The library continues gradually to expand and *Tulip Fever* by Deborah Moggach has kindly been donated to the newly established Fiction Section. This is a jolly good story, whether or not you are interested in tulips.

Leslie Leijenhorst, born in South Africa, is an independent journalist covering a variety of topics and publications. As author of *Hortus Bulborum Treasury of Historical Bulbs* he visited our Show in Primrose Hall this year and pre-



Leslie Leijenhorst presenting a copy of the Hortus Bulborum book to Secretary Teresa Clements

(photo Ulf Hansson)

sented a copy of his book for the library. The preface states "The 75th anniversary of the Hortus Bulborum in 2003 inspired me to write a short book both for laymen and professionals on this unique collection of historical bulbs." With contributions by Leo den Dulk, Philip Friskorn, Muhittin Goktas, Michael King (whose own book *Gardening with Tulips* is already in the library), Rina Kraaijestein, and Roanne Woldendorp, it covers everything you might want to know and includes an extensive catalogue of all the tulips and other bulbs currently in the lists of the Hortus Bulborum.

*Enjoy Your Todays* by well-known member Peter Royles is a library treasure. It is Peter's personal memoir, an extension of an idea that came when Wendy Akers asked him if he would write an article for the newsletter. He claims he is "an ordinary man who has led an ordinary life", but this privately published book makes extraordinary reading.

A few copies of the Hortus Bulborum book are available to buy from the Society at £20 each, contact Teresa Clements, but otherwise the ISBN is 9071123 74X. The text is in Dutch and English.

## Harrogate Spring Show

James Akers

The society has considered carefully over the past couple of years whether or not to continue to have a presence at this show. Declining numbers of exhibitors together with a succession of 'unhelpful' seasons has left embarrassing spaces on what was once a very impressive series of show benches. We have persevered, but next year's show which is very early for most tulips will be a real test of our will to continue. However back to this year!

Two entries in the Tulip Championship of Great Britain was an improvement of two on last year, but still way below our peak when we could rely upon ten or more exhibits in the class. There was however a new winner in Teresa Clements although her entry would only have been second if one of the flowers in Pat King's entry had had the requisite six petals. Nevertheless it gets us off the



The Society's extended display stand which won a silver-gilt award  
(photo James Akers)

ground again, and if the Society's strategy of selling a number of the early-flowering Fosteriana cultivars at the AGM bears fruit then we may see more entries in 2011.

The class for nine tulips which attracted six creditable entries was the 'King' class with Pat taking first and third places and husband Melvyn sandwiched in-between. However it was the class for a vase of three red or pink tulips which attracted the most entries, thirteen, which looked good even on the final day of the show (see photo facing).

## Results

**1 TULIP CHAMPIONSHIP OF GREAT BRITAIN 3 Vases of 9 Tulips, 3 different varieties, one per vase (2)** 1. Teresa Clements: Bellona, Corsage, Euromast 2. Mrs Pat King: World's Favourite, Euromast, Burning Heart

**2 9 tulips - one variety (6)** 1. Mrs Pat King: World's Favourite 2. Melvyn King: Purissima 3. Mrs Pat King: Striped Bellona

**3 3 Lily flowered tulips, one variety (3)** 1. John Russell: Pieter de Leur 2. Wendy Akers: Flash Dance 3. John Russell: Mona Lisa

**4 3 Parrot flowered tulips, one variety (3)** 1. Teresa Clements: Salmon Parrot 2. Teresa Clements: Rococo 3. No Exhibitor Name: Apricot Parrot



The class for three pink or red tulips. The first (red prizecard), second (blue) and third (yellow) entries are on the right

(photo James Akers)

- 5** 3 Double flowered tulips, one variety (3) 1. John Russell: Orange Princess 2. Four Seasons: Queen of Marvel 3. Teresa Clements: Miranda
- 6** 3 Fringed tulips, one variety (3) 1. John Russell: Sensual Touch 2. Four Seasons: Hamilton 3. Teresa Clements: Barbados
- 7** 3 Yellow flowered tulips, one variety (9) 1. Teresa Clements: Euromast 2. Mrs Pat King: Euromast 3. Paul Payne: Golden Parade
- 8** 3 White flowered tulips, one variety (2) 1. Melvyn King: Purissima 2. Teresa Clements: Pax
- 9** 3 Pink or Red flowered tulips, one variety (13) 1. Paul Payne: World's Favourite 2. Ken Bacon: World Peace 3. Jyll Thompson: Leo Visser
- 10** 3 tulips any other colour, one variety (10) 1. The Croft Community: Quebec 2. Teresa Clements: Quebec 3. Melvyn King: Apricot Emperor
- 11** 5 Kaufmanniana, Greigii or Fosteriana cultivars (4) 1. Mrs Pat King: Euromast 2. Melvyn King: Purissima 3. Barbara Pickering: *T. fosteriana* 'Flaming Purissima'
- 12** 3 multi-headed tulips one variety (4) 1. Linda Chapman: Georgette 2. Teresa Clements: *T. praestans* 'Unicum' 3. Jenny Orrell: Toronto
- 13** 3 tulips any other colour, one variety - restricted entry (5) 1. Four Seasons: Dreamland 2. The Croft Community: World's Favourite 3. No Exhibitor Name: Quebec
- 14** 3 cut flowers from one species tulip (5) 1. Jenny Orrell: *T. tarda* 2. Teresa Clements: *T. praestans* 'Unicum' 3. Teresa Clements: Persian Pearl
- 15** 5 cut flowers from one or more species tulips (6) 1. Barbara Pickering: *T. clusiana* 'Lady Jane' 2. Teresa Clements: *T. praestans* 'Fusilier' 3. Teresa Clements: Persian Pearl
- 16** A Bowl or pan of species tulips containing not less than 5 bulbs (4) 1. Morris Robinson: *T. tarda* 2. Jenny Orrell: *T. tarda* 3. Teresa Clements: *T. sylvestris*

## Flowers In The Picture

**Margot Murray**

The idea of entering an exhibit to be judged at The Harrogate Spring Flower Show 2010 occurred as a result of the many favourable comments and responses to Carole Gude's stunning floral display at Harrogate in 2009. (See photograph and article in 2009 Newsletter.) It was an interpretation in fresh flowers of the archetypal flower painting so prized and popular in 17th and 18th century Holland. It hadn't been entered for judging, but it looked as if it should have been.

The Northern Horticultural Society, organisers of the Show, have rules and guidelines for exhibitors regarding entries to be judged. It was decided by the WNETS Committee that our 2010 exhibit should be in the section described as 'Educational'. Obviously Carole didn't want simply to try to repeat what she'd done last year - and in any case the availability of floral material is always doubtful at that time of year. The Dutch flower painters could and did introduce extra blooms into the paintings as the season progressed, but our window would be four days in late April.

To support the proposed arrangement a brief visual history of flower painting was to be collated and displayed on a screen as part of the exhibit. A small amount of explanatory text was jointly prepared and then expertly printed by Teresa Clements. The whole was entitled 'Flowers In The Picture' and followed floral illustration from the earliest 'herbals' through to the work of some of the artists and photographers who more recently have been supplied with English Florists' tulips by the Society. The place of the tulip, from its introduction by Ogier de Busbecq in 1554 and its subsequent development was the central concern. Trying to get the history of several centuries of interest in the uses and appreciation of plants and flowers on to three small areas of display-board required ferocious editing, but we managed to include the main points.

The Golden Age of trade, peace and prosperity in The Netherlands coincided with religious stability and an expansion of knowledge. Wealthier citizens could afford a painting of a prized tulip more readily than the flower or bulb itself, once Tulipomania had taken hold and bulbs were changing hands for astronomical amounts! The genre of Vanitas painting, which was sometimes combined with flower painting, celebrated exploration beyond the home shores, foreign curiosities and merchandise, and the comfortable lifestyles of the well-to-do, but religion and human mortality were never forgotten. By the inclusion of symbolic items such as maps, skulls, Bibles, precious jewels and the ever-present lowly insect (rendered in creepy-crawly detail) we are reminded that worldly wealth is temporary and we should be preparing for what might come next.

Carole's display this year included all the necessary symbolism: an 'antique' globe and a 'pearl' choker (both found in a charity shop) exotic shells,

a leather-bound book. Some of last year's natural objects were cunningly recycled to add authenticity to the overall effect. Again a 'thank-you' to members willing to plunder their gardens at the last minute to swell the choice of floral material and give support to Carole's carefully chosen starring flowers. Barbara Pickering did sterling work in her role as Chief Assistant. By the end of the day I, for one had completely forgotten about the 'judging' aspect and was just glad to think I'd done my bit and could go home. I felt I never wanted to see a ruler, craft knife, velcro patch or display-screen again. In my determination to avoid the over-familiar I had ransacked collections of old birthday cards, tourism pamphlets, calendars, history books and catalogues for information and images. I'd re-sized, edited and re-arranged until all the necessary stuff fitted into the given space. Then when I heard next day the word 'Silver-Gilt' I knew it had all been worthwhile; as first-timers far from expecting any kind of prize, we had actually done rather well. But..... what have we started?



The finished article

(photo Terry Mitchell)

## The 175th Annual Show

James Akers

I have commented before on the fact that during the 19th century the premier blooms at the annual show were taken away to a separate room, where their details, strengths and faults, were recorded in a book, unfortunately no longer with us. Nowadays with a one-day show, a large number of visitors (much welcomed by the Society), and a hundred and one pressures on committee members it is difficult to even get round to see the show, never mind examine flowers in great detail. How pleasing therefore on the occasion of this anniversary to have a second day to do just that and to take photographs of so many different flowers which hopefully we will be able to include in our new book due out next spring.

The presence of a few members of the Royal Horticultural Society's Dafodil and Tulip Committee at the invitation of our Society was welcomed, one of whom, Anna Pavord a vice-president of WNETS, opened the show and presented the trophies.

How pleasing also to see so many members on the Sunday taking a walk around the show with our main judges Jane Green, and father Keith Eyre to discuss, class by class, the flowers judged the previous day. The full results follow with names (and residence) of exhibitors together with the flowers which were prize-winners. As can be seen, the exhibitors came from far and wide and not all of the 46 exhibitors won prizes, including Ulf Hansson who once more made the long trip from Sweden.

Although, as is normal, the date of the show, 8-9 May, and the lateness of the season didn't suit all exhibitors the show was a great success. Classes with 41 (three tulips) and 34 (six tulips) entries are not common at flower shows, and take some judging. In the main collection classes for florists' tulips, 8 to 18, Judy Baker showed in them all, and without her breeders the show would have been a much poorer spectacle. How fitting therefore that the Premier Breeder in the show should be 'Judy Baker', a rose, one of John Wainwright's recently named seedlings.

John Snocken this year added himself to the short list of exhibitors who have won the premier class in the show the Needham Memorial Cup for 12 rectified, and also judged the Novice and Extra Open classes aided by Richard Smales. Our chairman Malcolm Hainsworth was also prominent in these classes. With all my flowers grown on a north-facing slope I was unable to enter even a single flower, but Margery Walkington has now joined the 'elite' roll of exhibitors coming second to John in the Silver Challenge Cup for 6 rectified. Wouldn't it be wonderful if with a later show in 2011, I could get my act together, Margery

could find a few more different breaks and we could join the three previously mentioned exhibitors to make **five** entries in the Needham Memorial Cup class.

Michael Higgins was the winner of the most points award in the Novice Section and we look forward, as he increases his stock of florists' tulips, to him progressing to the main collection classes. Bob Taylor, a rarity among men, by his ability to grow and successfully show both auriculas and tulips, was the winner of the award for most points in the Extra Open Section.



Photographs of many of the flowers seen at this year's show should appear in our new book so I will mention and include just two flowers. The overall Premier bloom 'Constable Burton', shown here in its flamed form, was originally selected by myself from a few of the breeders which broke in the display bed of John Wainwright's 'rejected' seedlings at Constable Burton. Offsets have been distributed among other showing members

**'Constable Burton' (left) and  
'Wakefield' (below)**  
(photos James Akers)

and as it becomes more widely grown should take its place with 'Bessie', 'Columbine' and 'Talisman' as a candidate for inclusion as a bybloemen flame in a Needham Memorial Cup entry. It is perhaps a little heavily flamed for all tastes, but a good flower nevertheless.

I personally am not a great supporter of the English Florists' tulip vase classes though many welcome their inclusion as a different way of seeing the flowers other than on short stems in beer bottles. However in our patron Keith Eyre's vase of twelve 'Wakefield' was a flower which if shown in the Open classes would surely have given the 'Constable Burton' a run for its money as premier bloom.



All in all a wonderful show, a wonderful dinner in amongst the flowers, and having attended the 150th celebration as well, I would dearly love to be there at the 200th and winning the Needham Memorial cup.

## Results

### Vase classes

Class 1 The John Hardman Memorial Class Vase of 18 Tulips (One variety not English Florist) (9 )1. Ken Bacon (Sutton in Ashfield ): Toyota 2. Ken Bacon: Roi Du Midi 3. Pat King (Colne): Striped Bellona

Class 2 Vase of 12 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (10)1. Pat King: World's Favourite 2. Ken Bacon: La Cortine 3. Linda van Lopik (Pickering): Grand Amour

Class 3 Vase of 6 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (34)1. Ken Bacon: Toyota 2. Sally Nuthall (Sandal): Jacqueline 3. Teresa Clements (Harrogate): Pax

Class 4 Vase of 3 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (41)1. Linda Chapman (Pickering): Toyota 2. Ken Bacon: La Cortine 3. Margaret Mitchell (Wrenthorpe): Francoise

Class 5 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips (1)1. Keith Eyre (South Cave): Wakefield

Class 6 Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips (2)1. Keith Eyre: Jane L Eyre 2. Malcolm Hainsworth (York): Mixed bizarres

Class 7 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips (0)

### Open classes (English Florists' tulips)

Class 8 NORMAN EYRE MEMORIAL GOBLET Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties) (1)1. Judy Baker (Stowmarket): Rosie Wainwright, Juliet, Gloria, Mabel, Trefoil Guild, Argyre, Talisman, Columbine, Deryn Roberts, Sam Barlow, Lemuria, Goldfinder

Class 9 NEEDHAM MEMORIAL CUP Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips (all dissimilar) (3)1. John Snocken (Bridgnorth): Julia Farnese, Utopia Fe, Mabel Fl, Wakefield Fl, Agbrigg Fe, Lady Rachel Labouchere Fe, Jane L Eyre Fl, Talisman Fl, James Wild Fe, Lord Stanley Fe, Sir Joseph Paxton Fl, Lord F Cavendish Fl 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Unknown Fe, Wakefield Fe, Seedling Fl, Mabel Fl, Agbrigg Fe, Seedling Fe, Bessie Fl, Jane L Eyre Fl, James Wild Fe, Lord Stanley Fe, Sir Joseph Paxton Flame, James Wild Flame 3. Judy Baker: Ruth Duthie Fe, Utopia Fe, Akers Fl, Mabel Fl, Agbrigg Fe, Jane L Eyre Fe, Columbine Fl, Adonis Fl, Sir Joseph Paxton Fe, Lord Stanley Fe, Dr Hardy Fl, Lord F Cavendish Fl

Class 10 ROYLES JUBILEE CUP Stand of 9 Breeders (different varieties) (1)1. Judy Baker: Gloria, Juliet, Rosie Wainwright, Talisman, Wendy Akers, Trefoil Guild, Sam Barlow, James Wild, Lemuria

Class 11 LOCAL SILVER CHALLENGE CUP Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar) (3)1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Julia Farnese, Seedling, Seedling, Adonis, Columbine, Seedling, Lord Stanley, Doctor Hardy, Seedling 2. Judy Baker: Ruth Duthie, Wakefield Fl, Gloria Br, Adonis Fe, Columbine, Music Br,

Royal Sovereign, Doctor Hardy, Lemuria Br 3. John Snocken: Julia Farnese, Wakefield Fl, Seedling Br, Adonis Fe, Talisman Fl, Argyre Br, Lord F Cavendish, Sir Joseph Paxton Fl, James Wild Br

Class 12 SILVER CHALLENGE CUP Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips (4)1. John Snocken: Constable Burton Fe, Columbine Fl, Wakefield Fl, Julia Farnese, Sir Joseph Paxton, Lord Stanley 2. Margery Walkington (York): Adonis, Talisman, Wakefield, Julia Farnese, Lord Stanley, Lord F Cavendish 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Unknown, Seedling, Wakefield, Mabel Fl, Lord Stanley, Doctor Hardy

Class 13 THE G.S.HUNTER MEMORIAL CUP Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties) (3)1. Bob Taylor (Baildon): Lord Stanley, James Wild, Albert Tear, Wendy Akers, Gloria, Juliet 2. Barbara Pickering (Newmillerdam): Goldfinder, Lemuria, Music, Bessie, Mabel, Hubert Calvert 3. Judy Baker: Goldfinder, Sam Barlow, Trefoil Guild, Bessie, Juliet, Rosie Wainwright

Class 14 STAGES CUP Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (3)1. John Snocken: Wendy Akers 2. Judy Baker: Lord Stanley 3. Bob Taylor: Juliet Br, Wakefield Fl, Akers Fe

Class 15 SILVER PLATE Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (8)1. Margery Walkington: James Wild, Albert Tear, Mabel 2. John Snocken: Lord Stanley, Albert Tear, Lunae 3. Judy Baker: Sam Barlow, Trefoil Guild, Juliet

Class 16 Three Flamed (3)1. Keith Eyre: Mabel, N H Eyre, Sir Joseph Paxton 2. Margery Walkington: Mabel, Columbine, Lord Stanley 3. Judy Baker: Wakefield, Habit de Noce, Sir Joseph Paxton

Class 17 Three Feathered (1)1. Judy Baker: Mabel, Adonis, Sam Barlow

Class 18 Pair of Flamed (3)1. Margery Walkington: Wakefield, Sam Barlow 2. Judy Baker: John Hardman, Doctor Hardy 3. Keith Eyre: Cassius, Columbine

Class 19 Pair of Feathered (4)1. Judy Baker: Lord Frederick Cavendish, 691-2 Fe 2. Margery Walkington: Lord Frederick Cavendish, Adonis 3. Jenny Orrell (Wrenthorpe): Akers, Hubert Calvert

Class 20 One Breeder (14)1. Margery Walkington: Judy Baker, 2. Bob Taylor: Albert Tear 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Not named

Class 21 One Flamed (12)1. Judy Baker: Constable Burton 2. Margery Walkington: Lord Frederick Cavendish 3. Jane Green (North Ferriby): Sir Joseph Paxton

Class 22 One Feathered (6)1. Judy Baker: James Wild 2. John Wainwright (Wrenthorpe): Juliet 3. Margery Walkington: Mabel

Class 23 SEEDLING CUP One Seedling Breeder or Rectified raised by the exhibitor (3)1. John Wainwright: G91-11 2. John Wainwright: G91-11 3. Not awarded

Class 24 Three Seedling Breeders (one from each colour class) (3)1. John Wainwright: K952 2. John Wainwright: Cydonia 3. John Wainwright: A92-24

## **Novice Classes**

Class 25 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (0)

Class 26 One Breeder (24)1. Michael Higgins (Harrogate): James Wild 2. Roy Tetley (Keighley): Wendy Akers 3. Jean Richardson (Leeds): Albert Tear

Class 27 One Flamed (30)1. John Thompson (Morley): Lord Stanley 2. Don Palmer (Kent): Lord Frederick Cavendish 3. Patrick Smith (Derby): Sir Joseph Paxton

Class 28 One Feathered (13)1. Marjorie Butlin (Stoney): Wakefield 2. Sally Nuthall: Akers 3. Trevor Myers (Wilmslow): Lord Stanley

Class 29 THE GINA ROOZEN CUP Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One By-bloemen - One Rose (3)1. Jean Richardson: Sam Barlow, Albert Tear, Juliet 2. Michael Higgins: Sam Barlow, Music, Mabel 3. Roy Tetley: James Wild, Albert Tear, Juliet

## **Extra Open Classes**

Class 30 One Breeder (6)1. Roy Tetley: James Wild 2. Jean Richardson: Talisman 3. Trevor Myers: Not Named

Class 31 One Flamed (8)1. Jean Richardson: Wakefield 2. Keith Eyre: Jane L Eyre 3. Bob Taylor: Lord Stanley

Class 32 One Feathered (4)1. Trevor Myers: Adonis 2. Bob Taylor: Lord Frederick Cavendish 3. Keith Eyre: James Wild

Class 33 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (2)1. Bob Taylor: Sam Barlow Br, Lord F Cavendish Fl, Lord F Cavendish Fe 2. Trevor Myers: Goldfinder Br, Lord Stanley Fl, Lord Stanley Fe

## **Best Exhibit and Premier Bloom Awards**

### **Peter Emmett Trophy**

**Best Exhibit Classes 2 - 4** 'World's Favourite' - Pat King

### **Albert Tear Memorial Trophy**

**Overall Premier Bloom** 'Constable Burton' Flame - Judy Baker

### **Cochrane of Cults Vase**

**Best Bloom Classes 20 – 22** 'Constable Burton' Flame - Judy Baker

**Premier Flame in Show** 'Constable Burton' - Judy Baker

**Premier Breeder in Show** 'Judy Baker' - Margery Walkington

**Premier Feather in Show** 'James Wild' - Judy Baker

### **The Dudmaston Plate**

**Best Bloom in Novice Classes** 'James Wild' Breeder - Michael Higgins

### **Stan Knowles Trophy**

**Best Bloom in Extra Open Classes** 'Lord F Cavendish' Flame - Bob Taylor

## How about a pie and pea supper?

Carole Gude

We always have these flights of fancy, don't we? Flushed with success at Harrogate Spring show last year the elusive 'we' decided to do it again, only competitively this time. No pressure there then. And since it is a special year – 175th – we could expand the Annual Show into a whole weekend's celebration by holding a teach-in on the Sunday morning. And we must have a dinner on the Saturday evening. No one is going to be too tired for that are they?

An informal 'dinner sub-committee' was formed, and after considering the options we decided to pursue the idea of holding the event in the middle of the show, surrounded by the flowers we were celebrating, in the manner of the old florists' feasts. On a practical basis we were paying for the hall anyway! Not sure that there was enough space we held a meeting with our caterer, who thought we could accommodate sixty people, which seemed reasonable. We had a flimsy plan.

Although we now had a plan, we didn't have any diners. We had a chicken and egg situation. How many people would commit to coming on this basis? An invitation was sent out with sample menus and we sat back to wait. What if we got ten (or a hundred) replies? As ever, you came up trumps – around sixty - and we could go ahead. We agreed a subsidised charge of £25, confirmed a menu, ordered a celebration cake, elected Malcolm to source wine and get free glass hire, accepted a very generous offer of some sparkling wine and we had made a start. I suppose I have to admit to taking the whole thing over at this point. My excuse is that I'm not showing/judging/making teas or anything important so have the time. In any case, I would probably have interfered if someone else had done it.

My big idea was to have each of the tables named after an important flower, and dressing them in colours to match. You try buying red, purple and cerise napkins but a bit of persistence paid off and I even found balloons. Perhaps we could tie some outside to help people spot the new location for the hall? My lack of IT skills prompted a visit to Wendy



Amazingly accurate icing flowers

(photo Teresa Clements)

and James, as if they don't have enough to do. We designed, and James made, a card for the centre of each table with a photograph and information about each flower, whilst Wendy and I tackled the seating plan. A bit more shopping – water, soft drinks, after dinner mints, tea-lights (steady on Carole), and I was nearly there. I ordered some commercially grown tulips in sympathetic colours for the table centres just in case. I had discussed the design for the cake with its creator but it was even more breathtaking than I had imagined when I collected it. If you think that's a strong statement to make about a mere cake, you had to be there! The constant worry, apart from the preparations, was the tulips. After the atrocious winter, and the early show date, would there be any flowers to celebrate?

On the day I made the mistake of totally under-estimating how much car space I would need to transport everything, including ready-made flower decorations, so had to make them in the hall, instead of enjoying the show, but after that everything seemed to fall into place. Generous members allowed me to use their spare English blooms to make my arrangements special, Rosie and James Wainwright blew up balloons, the friendly and efficient caterers swung into action, Vera (my lovely mum), Jason and Teresa (Clements) helped to decorate the tables just in time, a quick change of clothes in the ladies and we were ready. Team effort again!

People arrived, admired the cake, drinks were served, candles lit and everyone seemed to relax and enjoy the evening. *(I remember this as a magic moment. Everyone was talking among the tulips when Malcolm said "will you take your places for the feast" and the lights went down, the candles on the tables sparkled and the colours of Carole's table dressings*



A set table (above)

(photo Teresa Clements)



Recognisable diners anti-clockwise from right, Anne Myers, Tom Baker, Judy Baker, Jason Clements, Teresa Clements and Dr Lennart Müller.

(photo James Akers)

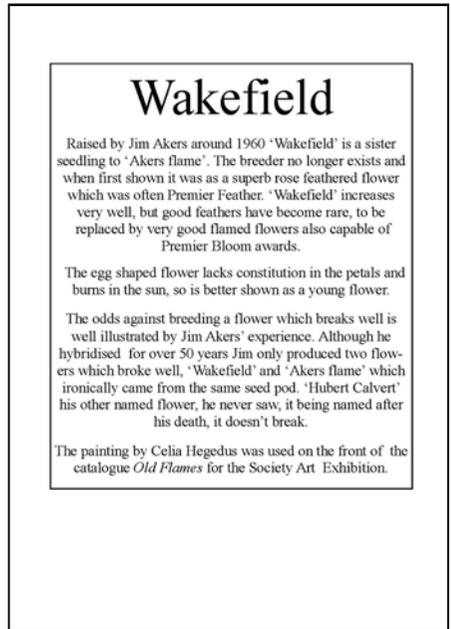
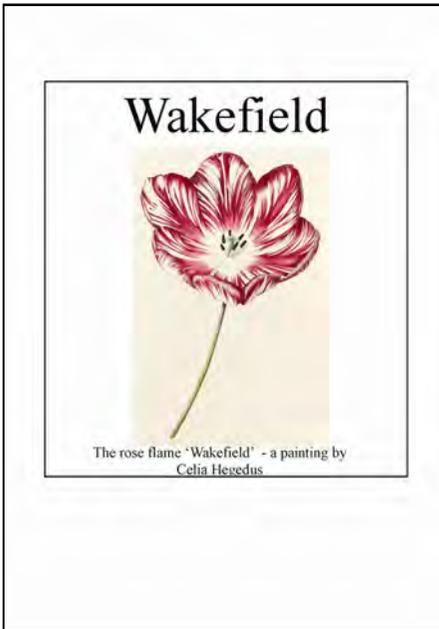


Keith Eyre and James Akers cut the cake

(photo Teresa Clements)

glowed like silks WMA). There was a lovely atmosphere in the room, sufficient reward for all the effort. Nothing was wasted – spare cake was distributed to absent friends. Someone from each table took home a flower decoration. The hand-painted tulips from the cake went home with delighted ladies and everyone seemed to have had a delightful time. Thanks to those who helped clear up, especially Malcolm and Maggie (Hainsworth) who were last to go, with a long journey home.

I expect it was a lot more elaborate than most people expected, but hope the evening was special. Next time we'll do a pie and pea supper and enjoy that too.



Front and reverse of one of the table cards. The others were Agbrigg, Jack Taylor, Mabel, Sir Joseph Paxton and Talisman,

## The Society's Garden Visit 2010

Jean Higginson

On 7 September, following a stormy night, the forecast was ominous: a severe weather warning from the Met. Office. A threatening pulse of heavy rain greeted some twenty members as we gathered near Kendal at Levens Hall, but the mass unfurling of umbrellas had an extraordinary effect; the sun emerged and it stayed warm and dry for our entire visit. Glorious blue sky and billowing cumulus clouds provided a heaven-sent theatrical backdrop to the world-famous topiary.

Head Gardener Chris Crowder, who has been immersed in this landscape for almost a quarter of a century, gave us an introductory talk and some insight into the joys and inevitable problems of looking after a seventeenth-century garden for a twenty-first-century audience. Levens, lying virtually at sea level, appears to be suffering from more frequent and deeper flooding in recent years. On occasion, golden orfe from the pool in the fountain garden have been swept away and re-distributed in challenging environments! As someone who finds trimming the privet in semi-detached suburbia an unwelcome chore, I was humbled



Chris Crowder (second left) with Society members

(photo James Akers)

by the maintenance schedule; a monumental task with living monuments. Clipping, shaping, sculpting and shaving of box, yew and the great beech hedges requires scaffolding and trestles, a hydraulic lift and special long-reach trimmers. It takes most of the winter when, one imagines, the garden must resemble a surreal barber's shop. Sweeping up does not bear contemplation.

In 1694, M. Guillaume Beaumont, said to have trained at Versailles, was employed to design the gardens. Their evolution is fascinating and well documented. Alongside natural life-cycles, great storms and wars there have inevitably been certain changes of fashion, but relatively few changes of ownership. The capabilities of Brown and the refinements of Repton were not deployed here. An elegant formality remains, yet there is no sense of being in a museum.



## Topiary

(photos Robin Spencer)

seen. Our group began to disperse, various members beckoned in different directions by seductive alleyways or exciting glimpses of colour and form.



The topiary, each piece fascinatingly different and softened a little by nature, arises from carpets of coloured bedding in a box parterre and is unquestionably the attention - seeker to the east of the Hall. Its neighbour is a rose garden, too late to be at its best, but heading south down the long and beautifully planted wall border one realises that there is so much more to be

On the south side, the grounds are quartered by four main pathways which lead to a central circle bordered by a massive beech hedge. This is a calm and restful space, although a figure in costume emerging from one of the arched entrances to strike a pose would not have been a surprise. One quarter contains a bowling green, still in use; another encloses an orchard of ornamental fruit trees. A spring photograph\* shows *Tulipa* 'Apeldoorn' planted beneath. The fountain garden, constructed for the tercentenary in 1994, features a circular pool which creates a fluid mirror with a water jet at its centre. The fourth quarter is altogether busier, housing a nuttery, herb garden and highly decorative vegetable borders. Amid these areas of tranquillity, functionality and productivity, flowers are not forgotten. The broad east-to-west axis showcases deep herbaceous borders; pastels to the east, hot reds and purples to the west. Urns and planters about the garden also entice the wanderer to yet another carefully planned vista and ready-framed photo-opportunity, but there are thoughtfully placed seats for rest and contemplation.

After this feast for the eyes, we found our way to the Bellingham Buttery to enjoy a very pleasant lunch with local produce. Here Harriet Gash presented our Chairman Malcolm Hainsworth with a gavel which he made good use of at the AGM. A plant centre and a tastefully stocked gift shop in the original potting shed were other possibilities for exploration before we



turned our attentions to the fine Elizabethan Levens Hall, which is still a family home. Records indicate that it was built around a thirteenth century pele tower, a defensive structure to repel marauding Scots, who were known to venture forth via the flat west coast of Cumbria.

As with the gardens, the house offered something to delight every taste and interest: ornate ceilings, oak panelling, Jacobean furniture, fine art, clocks and exceptional early English patchwork. Of particular interest to Society members were the well preserved and unusual Spanish leather wall hangings. Often called gilded leather, the effect is produced



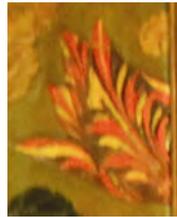
- top Harriet and Malcolm with the new gavel (photo James Akers)
- middle The rear garden (photo Robin Spencer)
- bottom The house through a 'hot border' (photo Robin Spencer)



with burnished silver foil, treated with an orange varnish. Patterning is embossed and decorated with oils. Birds, fruit and flowers are time-honoured motifs, but here we had, unmistakably, florists' tulips in all their glory! Tulips also get a mention in the garden archives. A receipt for plants\* dated 4 November 1698 details "1000 Tulip Roots", the most expensive item on the list at two pounds and ten shillings! Currently, 'White Triumphator' and 'Queen of Night' are favoured for the topiary garden in spring.

left and below - leather wall covering  
(photos Robin Spencer)

It was a wonderful and inspirational day out and thanks are due to Joanna Spencer for organising the visit. I am an inexperienced gardener, particularly keen to find ideas to try at home. Not topiary, I'm afraid - according to Chris, it takes about 30 years to achieve an impressive shape from a new plant. But what about those blue, indigo and violet rainbow neighbours: *Heliotropium arborescens* 'Marine' and 'Chatsworth' with *Verbena rigida*? And the contrasting patches of *Antirrhinum majus* in a soft yellow? That's next year's bedding ambition ... and I won't need 20,000 plants for my little patch!



Robin Spencer in action  
(photo Teresa Clements)

\* References: Crowder, Chris, with photographs by Russell, Vivian (2005) *The Gardens at Levens Hall*, London: Frances Lincoln.  
<http://www.levenshall.co.uk> (which features a video.)

# Report on Breeders from the *Hortus Bulborum* 2009

Teresa Clements

Of 28 people who bought bulbs from the *Hortus*, 16 sent in reports about how the bulbs had grown. Of the ten varieties there were reports of growth irregularities from all but one (James Wild). There were fewer of these and they mostly went to people who didn't report back, so it seems reasonable to think that they were no different to the other varieties in their growth patterns.

On arrival from the *Hortus*, the bulbs looked large and healthy. There were many reports of a single bulb producing two main stems, each with a single flower, but often the flower had extra petals or stamens so was not show-worthy. Other flowers were good normal flowers and were fit to show but due to growing conditions in 2010 were not ready in time for the show on 8 May.

A second unusual growth feature was the bifurcated or fasciated stem. These were seen in Bessie, Columbine, Juliet, Mabel and Talisman – and possibly more that went unreported. The distorted stems did bear flowers, some branching to give four flowers of varying sizes, none of them fit to show.

Left  
'Mabel' multi-stemmed.  
Right  
'Talisman' multi-stemmed.

(photos Colin Bell)

A third outcome was the bud or stem withering before the flower matured. This could have been a growth problem, or the onset of disease in a susceptible plant, or a healthy plant being infected in an area where disease was prevalent. This was reported in bulbs of 'Lord Stanley' and 'Mabel'.





**‘Talisman’ multi-stemmed and broken.**

**(photo Jean Richardson)**

Finally, some flowers were broken, this was reported in ‘Bessie’, ‘Columbine’, ‘Juliet’ and ‘Talisman’. We all know the

reason for this and the possibility that the bulbs arrived from the *Hortus* already infected with Tulip Breaking Virus is disappointing and worrying.

Looking at the individual reports it is hard to summarise what members are saying in a consistent way. Everyone has a different way of expressing themselves and expectations and actuality varied between members as well as between bulb varieties. The photographs give a far better idea of the unusual growth patterns and illustrate how difficult it was for people to describe exactly what had gone wrong. Many people sending in reports made comments like “I thought it was just me...!” and were relieved to find that others had been surprised by how the bulbs had grown, it wasn’t due to their cultivation methods or a bad batch of compost.

So, what went wrong? Whatever it was seems to have affected all varieties. There is the possibility that it comes down to how the bulbs were processed after being lifted. Dutch commercial companies lift, wash, dry and heat treat their bulbs before export. Heat treatment is used to induce the bulb to form a flower bud for the following season. It mimics the way a bulb in its native environment would be baked by the sun in the summer months, which is thought to be the natural stimulus for bud formation. It has been suggested that problems could have been caused by prolonged or interrupted heat treatment leading to more than one bud initiating.

Tulips with flattened and branching stems show signs of fasciation, a phenomenon that occurs in all plants and is often seen as distorted growth with multiples of the normal form. So a single stem might take on a flattened, banded appearance like many stems bundled together. There are genes associated with fasciation and it is possible that whatever event or agent caused the abnormal growth had upset the control of these genes. Writing on fasciation in 1905, C W Worsdell commented on plant growth being a conflict between integrity and plurality. The balance between normal growth and fasciation is quite easily upset. Tulip growers would add to this that some varieties are more easily upset than others, with ‘Talisman’ having a tendency to fasciation and bifurcated stems at the best of times.



Above 'Juliet' double-headed.  
(photo Jean Richardson)

Left 'Juliet' double bud.  
(photo Terry Mitchell)

The flowers were also affected by the same duplication, so some flowers had seven or eight petals, where individual petals had doubled up. Others had a partly green petal joined to what would have been the last leaf on the stem. Unfortunately, there isn't a definite answer to why these unusual effects occurred. In some cases the growth of the bulbs seemed to be so vigorous as to be unsustainable and buds withered and died in the same way as plants treated with some weedkillers "burn themselves out".



'Music' with green petal  
(photo Terry Mitchell)



Talisman multi-petaled bud.  
(photo Jean Richardson)



'Sam Barlow' with an attached green petal.  
(photo Jean Richardson)

On the positive side, not all the bulbs were a disappointment, some grew normally and produced good showable flowers. Those that didn't, have produced normal-looking offset bulbs that have great promise

of normal growth and flowers for next year. Fasciation is regarded as a temporary aberration and there is no reason to think it will recur in plants that are not usually predisposed to it. The coming season will be very interesting, we can follow the progress of all the *Hortus* breeder bulbs and see what happens when they have not been subjected to any kind of unnatural processing. Let's hope a few more flowers will make it to the showbench.



New arrangements have been made this year to supply copies of the *Daffodil, Snowdrop and Tulip Yearbook* at a reduced price to Society members. Please send a cheque for £9.25 made payable to Royal Horticultural Society to:-

Department W  
14 Waverley Road  
Kettering  
Northamptonshire  
NN15 6NT

**Don't forget to include your address.**

This issue contains several excellent tulip-related articles including:-

*Tulips of the Tien Shan* by John Page  
*AGM tulip assessment 2010* by Ivor Fox  
*AGM tulips 2010* by Sally Kington  
*World Tulip Summit* by Adrian Jansen  
*Flower Bulb Research Program at Cornell University* by William B Miller  
*Show reports* from Wakefield and RHS Wisley

# WNETS Membership

Jason Clements

It is sometimes said that the Society has two kinds of members; the first who join on a whim and leave us after only a few years, and the second whose interest in tulips is profound and long-lasting, and who generally remain members while still capable of wielding a spade (and often beyond that point). Naturally, it is such obsessives as these that any organisation wishes to cultivate, but is this division of the Society's membership into two distinct species really justified ? I thought I would try to find out.

The electronic records I have only go back about 10 or so years, and as they have passed through different hands, they may have been updated in different ways, so any statistics they reveal have to be taken with at least a grain of salt. With that in mind, what do they reveal ?

Firstly, I looked to see how many had joined, and left, the Society each year. 2010 seemed to have been an excellent year for new members, so I was a little surprised to see that it has been not at all exceptional:

Year	Joined	Left	Total Membership
1999	17	4	211
2000	37	63	185
2001	34	9	210
2002	29	14	225
2003	25	0	250
2004	37	0	287
2005	39	67	259
2006	35	29	265
2007	8	26	247
2008	22	56	213
2009	30	31	212
2010	32	8	236

It's interesting that despite a fair turnover, the overall membership has stayed fairly constant over the period.

You may wonder how people come to leave. A handful are kind enough to write and say they no longer want to be members, usually because of geographical distance preventing attendance at shows.

A handful more, alas, are removed by a higher power, but the large majority we simply never hear from. Be assured that membership is never terminated without warning if one subscription is missed – it's quite understandable that these things slip the mind, particularly for those unable to attend the annual show.

But of course, we cannot afford to continue to send newsletters and other correspondence to persistent non-payers, so eventually an entry is made in the 'Removed' column of the database. Still, these figures don't really show how long people stay with the Society, so here's another analysis:

Time with WNETS	Former members	Current members
1-3 yrs	72	83
4-5 yrs	70	24
6-7 yrs	41	24
8-9 yrs	18	13
10-12 yrs	18	27
13+ yrs		65

Is this evidence for the two types of member ? Up to a point – it's clear that of those who leave, the majority do so within their first 5 years of membership, but many do stay longer before parting company with us. On the other hand, the figures show that over a third of our members have genuine staying power – they've been with us for 10 years or more (often, much more). But then you don't need statistics to tell you that – you only have to listen to some of the conversations at the annual show !

## Florists' Tulips in North America

Maedythe Martin

It was a ground-breaking event when three wet and bedraggled people met in a café in downtown Vancouver, B.C. on a dark and rainy Sunday afternoon last October 2009. These three were all members of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society, but all residents of Canada. This was the first meeting of the outpost group and we have since learned of two more members in the USA. There are five of us now, in North America.

I joined the Wakefield Tulip Society in 1996 after I met a member living in Wales. We were fortunate enough to attend an Annual General Meeting together that year, since I was over in Britain at the right time of year. The Society was kind to me, and some bulbs came home to grow at the West Coast of Canada – and grow, until ten years later, I had over one hundred pots of rectified and breeder tulips! Far too many for me to manage any more!

Luckily I was able to divest myself of most of the small bulbs – and some larger ones, as well, to encourage them until the small ones would bloom in a few more years – to the two members in Canada. The thing about tulip bulbs is that if they are happy, you just end up with more and more each year when you replot. I was terrified of the responsibility of growing these historical bulbs once I had them, and grew them in 1 gallon pots, one bulb to a pot so the names will not be lost or mixed up. I was advised by an old hand in Britain when I first got them to just pot them in any potting soil, not to fuss. But I amended the potting soil with some clay-ey local soil, which I believe to be mineral-rich, and also with some coarse gravel, for I imagined the ancestors of the rectified tulips growing in Turkey somewhere, in rough ground with lots of rocks. This worked so well that I was growing the stripes out of the tulips. 'Mabel' came up with almost a solid rose colour! James Akers advised poorer soil and more exposure to the weather. A few experiments resulted in some losses, so I have reverted to the original mix, but often replot only every second year.

I had no problems for over a decade, but then the grey squirrel population seemed to explode. I recognized this as a hazard, and put the pots in blocks on my side patio, covered with chicken wire. But a pot of species tulips tucked into the edge of the block was decimated by a determined squirrel who got in under the edge of the chicken wire. The Squirrel War was declared! I now tuck in the edges rigorously, and for the winter hold the wire down solidly with bricks! Less loss due to squirrels but the last two years has turned up a new pest – deer! I live in downtown Victoria – more English than England – and yet the deer have invaded the city. I know the area used to be populated with native people and deer, who no doubt took advantage of the ready meat supply, but that option is not open to a Caucasian city-dweller today. And there are no natural predators left,



Chomped foliage and the culprit

(photos Maedythe Martin)

as lynx and cougars are definitely not encouraged in settled areas any more. But the deer just walk through the streets and hedges at will, and have found their way into my innermost courtyard. They find tulips to be very acceptable fodder!

So the chicken wire barricade has spread to the tulip pots not only in winter (the squirrels don't seem to bother the pots once there are plants growing in them) but through blooming season and the tulips come up under the wire barricade. I feel like I am living under siege most of the time. However, I did manage to have a few blooms this year: 'Sam Barlow' with the twisted stigma, but so colourful and one of my favourites, and a new one to me, 'Constable Burton' (I had asked for a couple of feathered bybloemens and was lucky to receive some and bloom one).

Now that the flowering season is past, it is time to un-pot the tulips again. They go into small three inch square pots in flats in the house on a table in the back corner of the kitchen (no mice allowed in the house!) and great care is taken not to spill the tray and the pots, or to lose the labels. I felt liberated last fall, vowing to keep only twenty flowering bulbs and gave the rest to the new members. But somehow I seem to have more than forty pots again, and with un-potting – the numbers will suddenly escalate. But there are no other members here at the West Coast to go to and beg a bulb if you lose one. I no longer have 'Music' which I liked though it is not always well-regarded. But with my new bybloemens I am well satisfied. I will continue to spread the extra bulbs to other members of the Society in North America so the old tulips retain their toe-hold in the new world. I am always mindful of the Society members who kept the stock going over many years and through difficult times, and feel the responsibility to do the same here at this outpost at the far West Coast of North America.

## Tulip Pest

Teresa Clements

As if squirrels, mice, rabbits and assorted fungal diseases weren't enough to do battle with, my tulips now have a new enemy. I was late to lift a few of my bulbs in 2009 and didn't see them until September so imagine my dismay when I saw several nice fat bulbs riddled with holes. A closer look showed tiny worm-like creatures, white millipedes with antennae, creeping out of the holes, I wasn't sure if they had made the holes or just moved in after some other creature.



I submerged the bulbs in cold water to flush the bug(ger)s out and replanted them in clean soil, well away from the intact bulbs. I didn't expect flowers from them, but hoped they might make enough growth to survive. That meant I covered the newly planted bulbs with wire netting to keep the squirrels off, sprinkled chilli powder on the soil surface to put the mice off (ineffective or insufficient, I lost some Dutch bulbs to them), sprayed the plants with sythane to try to keep tulip fire at bay and protected them from rabbits eating the tops with wire fencing. All that was alongside a battle with the elements, a long freezing winter, a late flowering season and a very hot and dry period after flowering.

After all that, a few English Florists Tulips made it to the 175th Annual Show, none of them prize-winners. The holed bulbs perished and rotted away.

Since I wrote this article I posted a picture of the tiny pest on the Internet and asked if anyone could identify it ([www.ispot.org.uk](http://www.ispot.org.uk)). Two people have suggested it is the Spotted Snake Millipede (*Blaniulus guttulatus*). It is a known pest of garden bulbs but depends upon other agents such as slugs or fungi to make the initial attack and allow it access to do further damage. It is also a pest of potatoes and beet. As it is sensitive to drought, it causes most damage in wet soils, maybe that's why it flourished in my soggy garden in 2009. Growers beware – here is another good reason to grow your tulip bulbs in well drained soil.

## A Firm Foundation

Wendy Akers

The society's beer bottles have been living in our garage since Trevor Mills first asked for and was given a thousand bottles by Bass Breweries. He thought the clear brown bottles unsullied by a label would set off the flowers very well, and so they did. Before that time, the shows were usually held in a pub and there were bottles to hand on the premises which we used for the tulips. Before that the society had a supply of stone bottles which had an opening at the top which was exactly the diameter of the stem. This made filling them with water a terrible job, they had to be submerged until the air came out and the water went in. Emptying them was even harder, they had to be violently shaken. James remembers having to do this when he was a little lad, and hating it. There are a few of these left and they look very beautiful and old.

A problem came up last year when the roof of our ancient garage started to collapse. This garage was in place when we bought the house forty years ago and had gradually become covered with summer jasmine, Clematis montana and ivy. Our friends have joked for years that the garage had probably gone and it was a garage shaped space made of climbers. If only that had been so. When we looked at it with a view to taking it down it transpired that the roof was made of asbestos, so specialist removal was needed. We had never kept our cars in it, it was the usual mixture of stuff, old paint, Daffodil Society vases, three old doors, a fibre glass bath for mixing John Innes, a lot of wood and much much more. We agreed to take down the climbers before the demolition gang arrived and a skip was delivered a few weeks ago to be filled with a mountain of herbage. There were many old birds' nests. The forest that was on the very top was growing in a mat and proved impossible to get off, given the fragile state of the roof so at one point it looked curiously naked round the sides with a punky lot of hair on top. The first skip went and another much larger arrived for the contents. This was duly filled also and eventually went off down the road. As forty years worth of old rubbish left I felt the occasion merited a fanfare of trumpets or a ceremonial toast. Next, three men spent an afternoon bashing it to bits and loading it onto a lorry. When they left we were left with the mat of stuff from the top and a strange absence of the garage.

All this time the society's bottle collection has been standing in the drive. We had already decided to replace the garage with a smart wooden garden office cum potting shed with large windows and no old paint tins so we needed to find a home for the bottles. Many avenues were explored, storage for an annual fee was ruinously expensive and eventually a plan emerged. Half way down our garden is an old shed. It was our chicken shed for many years while the children were growing up. Having daily fresh eggs with a family of seven to feed was

wonderful and I am probably still the best soufflé maker in the village. The chickens and the children eventually left and it has been quietly declining. The plan was to demolish it, build a new one which will belong to the society and use it to store the bottles and vases. After the last committee meeting an entry appeared in my diary reading: shed day.

This was last Thursday, a crisp autumn morning. The chairman arrived at the crack of dawn from York and Teresa, our Hon. Sec. shortly after, armed with crow bars, wellies, hammers and a steely determination. It was soon down and burned



Workers and, below, the assembled shed with bottles stored away (photos James Akers)



to ash. It was felt that the foundation of the old shed needed improvement to get the maximum life out of our new storage facility. After a coffee and a piece of Teresa's yummy almond tart we started again. We had a good supply of square blocks but the site was badly in need of levelling. Anyone who has visited our garden knows how steep the slope is. We have spent the last forty years making bits of it level so that we can garden without falling over

and rolling off down the slope. Some of this levelling has been achieved with the help of a lovely supply of York stone. This manna from heaven came from our old neighbour who had on his plot a disused rhubarb forcing shed (we do live in the rhubarb triangle) a long low building with stone roof. His offer was “you can have the stone if you help me to demolish it”. Thus James spent a summer carrying large pieces of stone, manually, between the two gardens. This may have had something to do with the next twelve months he spent suffering from back damage and sciatica. However, he recovered and the stone made good paths and standing ground for pots. There were still spare pieces of the old forcing shed and we used these to level the sub soil to make the foundation really level and firm and the shed is now up and filled, (thank you number one son). It has a slightly odd look, because of the wood-stain, rather like a little gingerbread house so I will probably paint it once it stops raining. The mat from the top of the old garage is gradually being cut up and will join the other bonfires on 5 November. So, a good job done and a firm foundation for the next few years of our extraordinary and wonderful society.



Founded 1949



## The British National Carnation Society

The British National Carnation Society  
welcomes all who are interested in the culture of the  
Dianthus family of Carnations and Pinks.

Its aims are to encourage endeavours to expand and improve the  
cultivation of these beautiful flowers and to promote their uses in  
Gardens, Floral Decoration and Exhibition.

Society Secretary:

Mrs Betty Linnell,

‘Linfield’

Duncote,

Towcester,

Northampton.

NN12 8AH.

Telephone: 01327 351594

e-mail: [blinnell723@btinternet.com](mailto:blinnell723@btinternet.com)

The Societies Web-site is at : [www.carnations.org.uk](http://www.carnations.org.uk)  
‘Why not join today?’

# The Keukenhof

Colin Bell

The Keukenhof is a large park-like site in the bulb growing area of Lisse in the Netherlands. It is open for just one month a year from mid April to mid May for an extraordinary spring bulb show. For the rest of the year it is closed to the public for replanting. Officially, it claims to contain 4.5 million tulips in 100 varieties. The site is large, about 80 acres with 10 miles of footpaths. The open areas are a mixture of formal park land, landscaped lakes, glades and exhibition halls. Although last entry is two hours before closing you should plan to spend most of the day. That way you can absorb the atmosphere and take your time simply looking at the flowers, as well as taking refreshments and sitting down! Although Holland is flat, the Keukenhof has been landscaped with dells and viewpoints. I believe they can arrange electric wheel chairs if booked in advance.

The main exhibition hall (Willem- Alexander) is where you can see perfect tulips (and hyacinths and narcissus), protected from the weather and cosseted by the grower. The hall contains several hundred 'mini beds' about 4 foot by 8 foot, each mass planted with just one variety to give a feel for the flowers individually and in a group. Some of the varieties



will be known to anyone looking at the autumn bulb catalogues but many will not as the growers will often show bulbs with just a code number; these are tulips that are in development and a taste of things to come. Each bed is labelled with the variety, name and also the grower. I have contacted some of the growers personally in the past, with mixed results. The walkways inside the hall also carry other flower displays, mainly lilacs. The Dutch growers force the lilacs to flower at the same time as the tulips. They have an interesting way of pruning the plants so that each plant has many flowering canes about 3-5 feet long, each with a flower spike. One interesting thing about the tulips you will see is that in the beds (inside and out) are so obviously clones- all the same height size and colour. Interestingly, though, because each breeder has developed different bulb stock there can be subtle variation in colour and form between the displays of what are named as the same variety. (*or different growing conditions? Editor*)

There are two other display halls - the Beatrix hall and Oranje Nassau hall. In the Beatrix hall there is usually a display of orchids and other tropic exotics. Again this is done almost to excess, all perfect plants with amazing flowers and colour ways. In the Oranje Nassau there are flower arranger displays and changing exhibitions of other flower types like chrysanthemums, grasses and so on. The flower arranging is very interesting, again raising the displays to an art form.

Connecting the halls are paths, beech lined walkways, lakes, mazes, formal beds, wild gardens, Japanese gardens, woodland settings, manicured grass and so on. There are also some ‘attractions’ like a windmill (naturally!), Dutch



barrel organs and girls in traditional dress. The beauty of this is that as you wander around there is always another surprise or perfect photo opportunity just around the corner. The formal displays can give you a lot of ideas of colour schemes and planting schemes. There are plenty of sitting areas and a few food outlets but the commercial-

(photos James Akers)

ism is kept much to a minimum. There are three outlets where you can look through bulb catalogues and pre order bulbs for delivery in the autumn but I have seen nothing in these outlets that cannot be found in the usual UK mail order catalogues.

The best way of getting there is to arrange it as a day out within a longer trip to the Netherlands, maybe basing yourself in Amsterdam or The Hague. What I would *not* do is to take an organised tourist trip from Amsterdam. It costs a lot more and will restrict the time you can spend there. The Keukenhof website (<http://www.keukenhof.nl>) allows you to buy a combined show entry and bus ticket.

If you do decide to stay in Amsterdam there are several tulip attractions there too, along with all the usual tulip based souvenirs! The Hortus Botanicus (<http://en.dehortus.nl/information>) is a museum /garden which shows the development of the modern tulip. The Tulip Museum, 112 Prinsengracht - <http://www.amsterdamtulipmuseum.com>) is worth a visit.

Finally— is it worth the effort of getting there? After all it’s a small time window, the total package is not cheap and the weather may be inclement. If you like modern tulips the answer has to be yes and if the weather is kind then it’s a wonderful and memorable day out. And don’t forget to take your camera!

## **The Society Visit to the Linnaeus Garden in Sweden, June 2011**

Members wishing to take part in the visit are expected to make their own travel arrangements for the journey to and from Halmstad, where the group will be based. We have been recommended to fly to Gothenburg or Copenhagen and take the train to Halmstad.

The Clarion Collection Hotel, Norre Park, in Halmstad has offered to reserve rooms for the society for Friday and Saturday 17 and 18 June 2011, at a discounted price. For those arriving in good time, we plan to meet there on Friday evening, 17 June 2011, for a social gathering with our Swedish hosts. On Saturday 18 June, we will be taken by coach to the Linnaeus garden, where we will have a guided tour of the garden and lunch. We will return to Halmstad in the afternoon and reassemble for dinner together on Saturday evening. The cost of the day's events, including coach travel, the visit to the Linnaeus Garden, lunch and dinner will be approximately £55 per person. There may be further opportunities to see local highlights on Sunday 19 June, depending upon how many people will stay on in Halmstad and what they prefer to do.

So far, twenty people have said they would like to take part in the visit. Please contact me for further details if you would like to join us. I will be able to give you contact details and a booking reference number for the hotel so that you can get the discounted tariff and are allocated a reserved room. It would be a great help to our Swedish hosts when planning the event if we could let them know as soon as possible how many people to expect, they need to book transport, admission to the garden and catering well in advance. This promises to be a really interesting, enjoyable and popular trip, please book early and keep in touch.

**Teresa Clements, Secretary – Contact details inside front page.**

## **The Society Visit to Uzbekistan, April 2012**

The society has been invited to form a group to visit Uzbekistan to see species tulips growing in the wild. Members would be expected to make their own arrangements for travel to Tashkent then meet up at a hotel in Tashkent from where they would be taken on guided excursions into the mountains. This is what our host, Prof. Alexander Orekhov, said;

*Last spring I have been in Uzbekistan. With my friend Komijon, Uzbek botanist, we have visited several tulip places where we found flowering tulips belonging to unique Uzbek species. I was very impressed! It is my idea to organize Annual Tulip Safari with the best tulip specialist of Uzbekistan as a guide. Such a Safari*

*will include visiting of 10 different tulip places in Uzbekistan and cultural program (sightseeing). We calculated that regular 10-14 days tour will be about US\$ 2,300 plus flight to Tashkent (Uzbek capital).*

He has proposed a pilot trip in April 2011 and several members have already agreed to take part. There will be more news about this later in the year, but for now you can think it over and maybe pencil the date into your 2012 diary. If you would like to go, please let me know so we have some idea of how many people might be interested.

Teresa Clements, Secretary – Contact details inside front page.

## **'The Tulip in Art, Science and Society'**

### **A WEA Summer School Day**

**Thursday 26 May 2011, 10am to 4pm.**

The day is open to all who would like to attend as delegates and is part of the **WEA Summer School Programme for 2011**. (The WEA is the Workers' Educational Association). The cost is likely to be £12 for the day, inclusive of morning coffee. Lunch will be available at an extra charge, or bring a picnic.

The Summer School will be held at the **John Innes Conference Centre at Colney Research Park**, which is on the western outskirts of **Norwich**, with easy access from major arterial routes (A11, A47, etc.) and plenty of onsite parking. Norwich has a mainline railway station, although this is on the opposite side of the City. For anyone booking, maps can be sent by post or links to the JI Conference Centre site can be sent by e-mail.

The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society will take part in the event by providing blooms to illustrate the scientific part of the day, when the JI team will explain the research at Merton that led eventually to the discovery of the cause of 'breaking' in tulips. We hope to be able to show the progression from breeder to flamed and feathered flowers, while hearing about the research. The day will be led by Moira Coleman, an independent researcher working for the WEA, along with the JIC team. As part of the afternoon's events, our Patron James Akers MBE will give a talk about the society.

Printed publicity and booking forms will be available early in 2011, when the Norfolk Federation of WEA Branches will begin by circulating its members attending their Spring WEA courses.

## Obituaries

### Colin Marsh 1930-2009

Colin was a keen gardener who joined the Society in 1970, taking an active part in growing and showing English Florists' tulips.

He was a very valuable member who could always be relied upon to help in the preparation for, and during, our shows. He won many prizes over the years and for his service to the Society he was made a Vice-President.

Colin was a plumber by trade, working on construction sites and later for the railway. He was a strong trade unionist and was President of the Wakefield Labour Club for a number of years.

Keenly interested in outdoor activities, he became involved with the Pugney's Action Group which fought against its development as an opencast site. It is now a Country Park and Nature Reserve much enjoyed by its many visitors.

Colin was married to Josie and had three children.

*A record of Colin's death including tributes paid to him can be found on page 31 of The Wakefield Express 3 April 2009 and details of the unveiling of a plaque in his memory at the Wakefield Labour Club on page 32 of The Wakefield Express 6 November 2009.*

Keith Eyre

### Barbara Perraudin

The Society notes the death of Barbara Perraudin, wife of the late Raymond (Ray) Perraudin a very successful exhibitor of Florists' tulips at our annual show. Barbara died on 12 March 2010 aged 90.

*"The funeral took place on Friday of this fine lady, widow of Raymond who she met while working in Germany. Barbara gained a degree in French and German while at Oxford University, qualifying her for a post in Bletchley Park, where she worked all through the war. Later, while Raymond was a senior education officer, Barbara taught at QEGS. However it was the campaign they led – and won – to prevent the College Grove area being destroyed by a relief road, which guaranteed the respect for which they will always be remembered."*

The Wakefield Express 2 April 2010 page 48

Wendy Akers

# Man Versus Mouse

## Harry Fogg

It has long been evident that some bulbs, especially Tulip and Crocus, are often eaten by rodents such as mice, but when these have been planted amongst other vegetation it has not been noticeable or serious. Now my kind neighbour has built a 30 yard boundary wall, west facing and with permission to insert vine eyes, perfect for espalier trained shrubs underplanted with bulbs in bare earth. I chose Crocus, Colchicum and Nerine, though the events would have been the same with Tulips.

Shortly after planting four small holes appeared, corm gone, shoots left, we can cope with that. Next three nights a further four, time to formulate a plan, then twenty four in one night, either the mouse was very hungry or his mates had come round for a party, he had to go. Mouse pellets were put into a plastic milk carton placed at the back of the bed, the mouse carefully filled the neck of the carton with twigs and pebbles as if to say 'I am not eating those'. Plan B, chemical warfare using some old Armillatox watered on, this seemed to work for a few weeks, then it rained and a fresh dose was needed. After another dose, concerns started to be raised: would the soil become polluted?; can I afford more Armillatox/Jeyes Fluid costing more than the Crocus? Chilli powder keeps the squirrels off the nuts, tried that but mice seem to quite like it. Man 0 - Mouse 2. Reluctantly abandoning the Crocus to their fate pending a plan C, I was surprised next spring to see more Crocus than expected had survived, the depredations having stopped without my intervention.

Plan C became to replace the Crocus with one of the generally poisonous Amaryllidaceae, namely Narcissus 'Hawera', easily available, reasonably priced, rather nice to look at and likely to enjoy the hot dry conditions. The following spring saw more Crocus still, forming a respectable but rather discontinuous band of colour as they multiplied when left alone. A new generation of mice began their raids, but plan D then arrived quite fortuitously, by providing a free supply of baby rabbits to tempt a neighbour's cat to become a regular visitor the mice were eaten as well. Man+Cat 2 - Mouse 2. Time to call a truce.

There it rests, though the truce is probably temporary. Can't the Dutch have some Narcissus genes inserted into Tulips and Crocus to provide a permanent solution? On second thoughts they like our bulbs being eaten to increase merchandising opportunities.

# A letter (and a song) from America

Ed Wall

Dear Teresa,

Attached is a tribute to the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society on your 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Lyrics are by me, vocals and music by Emily Wachsberger, and recording by Jack Wagner. We had difficulty at the recording session from background noise, so the volume is slightly lower than we would have desired.

I wrote this in February and hoped to have it to you before your annual meeting, but Emily Wachsberger has had such a busy schedule, she could not record this until August 3.

This song is 5 minutes 3 seconds long. It essentially is in two parts: the first a lament of sadness and despair, the second one of hope and promise. It is the latter part that is my real tribute to WNETS.

Best wishes,

Ed

*Unfortunately even with the latest advances in technology we are unable to include the recording in the book, however we will try to put it onto the website, (or you can ask Teresa to email you a copy) but here are the words.*

## Sam Barlow

By C. Edward Wall (2010)

[Introduction]

In nineteenth century England,  
Sam Barlow owned the Stakehill Bleach Works  
around which he planted tulips.  
For some tulip bulbs, he offered their weight in gold,  
and ended up paying much more.  
His was the finest collection of tulips in England.  
This is a true story about a man who loved tulips  
and what happened to his tulips after he died.

Hang down your head, Sam Barlow  
Hang down your head and cry  
Hang down your head, Sam Barlow  
Tomorrow you'll trip and die

For tulips at my bleach works  
Paid the greatest price  
Tulips at my bleach works  
Flamed and looked so nice.

Hang down your head, Sam Barlow  
Hang down your head and cry  
Hang down your head, Sam Barlow  
Tomorrow you'll trip and die.

This time tomorrow  
Reckon where I'll be  
Under the tulips  
I planted there for me

Hang down your head, Sam Barlow  
Hang down your head and cry  
Hang down your head, Sam Barlow  
Tomorrow you'll trip and die

After tomorrow  
I fear that I will be  
Under a dead garden bed  
No tulips left to see

Hang down your head, Sam Barlow  
Hang down your head and cry  
Hang down your head, Sam Barlow  
Your tulips are bound to die

Hang down your head, Sam Barlow  
Hang down your head and cry  
Hang down your head, Sam Barlow  
Your tulips are bound to die

[as music fades, voices begin to rise in the background]

[faintly] No, that's not so, Sam Barlow  
[slightly louder] No, no, no. That's not so  
[louder] That's just not so. Sam Barlow  
[rising] Not so, not so, not so.....

**Not so**, Sam Barlow  
Others love them too  
Many special persons  
Will nurture them like you

**Raise up** your head, Sam Barlow  
**Raise up** your head and sigh  
**We** will grow your tulips  
Your tulips will never die

Also, Sam Barlow  
We'll name one for you  
Every spring it blooms again  
We'll remember you

**Hold up** your head, Sam Barlow  
**Hold** your head up high  
We will grow your tulips  
Your tulips will never die

**Hold up** your head, Sam Barlow  
**Hold** your head up high  
We also love your tulips  
And will never let them die

Hold up your head, Sam Barlow  
Hold your head up high  
We also love your tulips  
And will never let them die

**“Sam Barlow” is based on the Kingston Trio version of “Tom Dooley”, an old North Carolina folk ballad.**

## Publications

### James Akers

The Society is currently involved in two major projects, the preparation of a new booklet to replace *Florists' Tulips Into the 21st Century*, and the perusal and reorganisation of the Society's records in readiness for archiving. There are a large number of periodicals, newspaper cuttings and other items which could feature in both projects. Teresa has started the onerous task of reading and cataloguing these items and creating a database which record the essential details of each article. Many more need to be examined, but we think it worthwhile to ask members now if they have within their possession any item which include either reference to Florists' tulips, our Society or any other tulip society of old. The items catalogued so far are as follows, date of publication and title only. If you have, or know of, any item not included on this list could you please bring it to Teresa's attention. If you wish to donate it to the Society then please send it to Teresa, or perhaps we can make a copy of the information before returning the original to you.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Publication</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Publication</b>
14-May-1955	The Gardeners' Chronicle	01-Apr-2001	Country Life Magazine
05-Dec-1958	Garden News	08-Apr-2001	The Sunday Telegraph Magazine
12-Oct-1976	Poster, Redfern Gallery, 20	19-May-2001	Yorkshire Post Magazine
17-Oct-1976	The Sunday Times Magazine	01-Apr-2002	Details - Canada Post
02-Jul-1983	Amateur Gardening	05-Apr-2002	Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
22-Jun-1985	Amateur Gardening	03-May-2002	Standing Alone Booklet
?-Mar-1986	The Northern Gardener	03-May-2002	Tulipmania
?-?-1986	The Wakefield Express	09-May-2002	World Tulip Summit pamphlet
24-Oct-1991	Country Life Magazine	10-May-2002	Folder of Items from the World Tulip Summit. Ottawa
01-Jan-1992	Period Living Magazine		
?-?-1992	The Wakefield Express	11-May-2002	The Times
30-Oct-1993	The Evening Mail	22-May-2002	Pages of Info from Internet
09-May-1994	The Evening Mail	24-May-2002	The Wakefield Express
20-May-1994	The Wakefield Express	10-May-2003	WNETS Poster
18-Jun-1994	Amateur Gardening	07-Jun-2003	Daily Telegraph
03-Jul-1997	Country Life Magazine	01-Apr-2004	The English Garden
16-Jun-1998	Sotheby's Poster	07-May-2004	The Wakefield Express
05-Jun-1999	Amateur Gardening	01-May 2005	Gardeners' World Magazine
?-?-1999	Tulipa	21-May-2005	LØRDAG&SØNDAG
01-Mar-2000	Homes and Gardens	?-Apr-2007	Populär Historia

## Rosecarpe Horticultural Society

### Morris Robinson

The Rosecarpe Horticultural Society is holding its two day Spring Bulb Show on Good Friday and Easter Saturday 22-23 April 2011 at Silverhills Nurseries, Lamesley, Gateshead, NE11 0HA.

There are eight tulip classes in the Open Section. The major class, the Championship Class, calls for three vases of three tulips, any variety and colour, and is sponsored by the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society: first prize £8, second £6 and third £4 and prize winners also receive a 30 litre bag of Dalefoot Compost worth £9.99.

As the show is the week after Harrogate Spring Flower Show then the date is ideal for exhibitors whose blooms were not out in time for that show.

In addition there are 41 Open Classes for daffodils and also the third leg of The Daffodil Society Northern Area Championship.

If any members would like a schedule or further information, they can contact me:

Morris Robinson, 6, Stoneylea Close, Crawcrook, Ryton, Tyne & Wear. NE40 4EZ Tel: 0191-4138026 . Mobile: 07984 612245

Email: morrosa@talktalk.net

## *Tulipa sylvestris*

**Teresa Clements**

*Three shapely leaves will first unfold,  
Then, on a smooth, elastic stem,  
The verdant bud shall turn to gold,  
And open in a diadem.*

James Montgomery (1771 – 1854)

This little poem introduces an article about *Tulipa sylvestris* in the newsletter of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (No 54, 2010 – You can find a copy in the society's library).



*Tulipa sylvestris* in a garden setting  
(photo Teresa Clements)

One of our members, Albert Henderson, co-authored a preliminary review of the Yorkshire records of the sites at which this species has been recorded. There is a brief discussion of the way in which it might have arrived in the UK and a location map showing its incidence in Yorkshire from the 19th century onwards. Most of the data has been obtained from reports in the journals of natural history societies and from herbaria.

The article is a preliminary review and Albert and his colleagues intend to continue their research. They would appreciate reports from our members about the current locations of *T. sylvestris* growing naturally in Yorkshire. So, keep your eyes open when out walking next Spring, or if you remember seeing this charming little tulip flowering in the wild, why not make a point of checking the location?

Please send details to Albert Henderson, Garden Flat, 114, Otley Road, Leeds. LS16 5JX.

If you take a digital photograph or want to send your report by email, please send it to [t.clements@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:t.clements@zetnet.co.uk) I will make sure it is sent on to Albert and his co-authors.

*(If you live outside Yorkshire but know of populations in your area then it would still be nice to know, again details to Teresa - WMA)*

## ‘The end is nigh’

James Akers

*“The annual exhibition in connection with ..., and we are afraid that unless there is an influx of members this old-established institution will become extinct. There are now only about a dozen members who cling together with commendable loyalty, but they would be greatly encouraged if others would join”*

Before panic sets in let me explain that these words were not written this year, nor even about our Society when it was in a similar position about 25 years ago. The missing words are “*the Middleton Tulip Society was held at the Free Library, on Saturday,*”.

Shortly after the First World War our Society started to include “and North of England” within its previous name The Wakefield Tulip Society. Although there is no formal change in the Minute Book of that period, it came about because of the demise of the tulip society at Middleton near Manchester. This left just ourselves and the Royal National Tulip Society, which subsequently folded in 1936, still alive from the probable two-hundred or more societies which had existed in the English Florists’ tulip’s heyday. The quotation is taken from the report of what I believe to be the last ever show of that society recorded in the *Middleton Guardian* of 10 June 1916.

In preparation for the new Society booklet due early next year I am researching old tulip societies. Not an easy task! Old records are difficult to find, our oldest minute book starts in 1907: those of the Royal National Tulip Society have never been found; the same is probably true of the Middleton Tulip Society. One has to fall back on reading through old newspaper articles, viewed on almost unreadable film using antiquated microfilm readers in public libraries. Unfortunately I won’t live to see the day when it is all on searchable pdf files accessible through the internet, and I certainly appreciate the enormous work done by Ruth Duthie (*Florist’ Flowers and Societies*) and Anna Pavord (*The Tulip*) in the preparation of their books.

The oldest newspaper from Middleton, the *Middleton Albion* records the show held in 1858, and I have already learned something new from its 12 June 1886 report, that the Royal National Tulip Society held its show at Middleton that year, and also the previous year. So that’s three reports read, only another fifty-five to locate and read.

A few years ago I asked members to go along to their local library and look for tulip reports in their old newspapers. The result - **not even one response**. Can I ask again, please, just one year **1861**. Search from the first week in May to the third week in June, if there was a show reported you should find it.

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