

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND

# TULIP SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NO 27 AUTUMN 2015



Established 1836

# WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

## OFFICERS 2015-2016

PRESIDENT	The Duke of Devonshire KCVO, CBE, DL
PATRONS	K N Eyre, J L Akers MBE
HON LIFE MEMBERS	Mrs A Turner, P Turner
VICE PRESIDENTS	Peter Emmett, Trevor Mills, Timothy Clark, John Ollerenshaw, Dr Kate Swift, Jane Green, Bob Bingham, Anna Pavord, Wendy Akers, Sarah Akers, Anne Smales, Carole Gude, Barbara Pickering, Malcolm Hainsworth, John Wainwright, John Gibson, Terry Mitchell, Jan Pennings
CHAIRMAN	M Hainsworth
HON SECRETARY	Mrs T Clements  Harrogate North Yorks  Telephone email:
HON TREASURER	Mr J Clements details as above except email.
COMMITTEE	Mrs W M Akers, J Clements, Mrs T Clements, K N Eyre, J Gibson, C. Gill, Mrs J Green, Mrs C Gude, M Hainsworth, T Mitchell, N. Tyers, J Wainwright
EDITOR	Ms Tonnvane Wiswell email:
SOCIETY WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.tulipsociety.co.uk">www.tulipsociety.co.uk</a>

Cover: *Tulipa Zany*, painted by E A Bowles, now in the RHS Lindley Library. This image appears by kind permission of Andrew Parker Bowles

*Annual Subscriptions – Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2016 become due on the date of the Annual Show May 2016 and are for the sum of £5 per Member, £6 for Family Membership and £50 for Life Membership.*

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# Editorial

**Tonnvane Wiswell**

Welcome all to the autumn 2015 edition of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society's newsletter. I'm pleased to be joining you as the new editor, a position I am able to fill despite living at some distance from WNETS' heart. This society has been giving me much pleasure since I joined a few years ago, as, while there are many places one can go to talk to others about football and Dr Who, there are very few where one can unabashedly indulge in a passion for tulips. At the annual show I've found people eager to debate whether the newly broken flowers in my bed are likely to be successful, and the AGM has given me, not just the chance to expand my knowledge of tulips, but the opportunity to sit in a room full of others (surely fans and not fanatics!) who share my passion. It's my hope that by taking on this post I'll be able to give a little bit back to the society and its members. Enjoy!

## Chair's Report 2015

**Malcolm Hainsworth**

Late October and I am still struggling to find and prepare ground for this new season's planting. The only plot that has not had tulips for some years is filled with chard and weeds. I think I'll settle for a more tractable site which has not carried them for three years. I have rarely taken so much care in planting as I did last season. Each bulb lay on a bed of grit and sand (some from Sandsend). I began on 18th Nov. with my Bybs and continued on and off until the 25th Nov. After the usual periods of anxiety and panic - would anything show out of the ground? If it did would the forecast hail ruin it? Would sea sand be fatal to the bulbs? The relief at seeing emerging leaves was considerable. The first buds were visible on 10th April. Earlier, on the 4th, I'd noticed groundkeepers in beds of previous years with 2" stems. The first of these to fully colour was a Lord Stanley and this on the 27th April. As this and its companions had been in the ground for three years perhaps I can assume they emerged at their "natural" time, given the growing environment. Despite uncovering the blooms as often as possible most were fully open after the main show.

At the beginning of the year I had written to Peter Royles to tell him of my seedlings, mostly crosses with Bessie. He was kind enough to point out that,

whilst it was possible to make worse crosses than with Bessie, this variety had never, in his experience, produced anything worthwhile. So, what to do with them? My crosses, I'll have to bear them.

I can report that the bulb distribution went smoothly and well, it usually does thanks to the generosity of members and the efficiency of our Secretary and Treasurer. Some exchanges took place at the AGM which saves postage but the remainder were dispatched in good condition. A high proportion of requests were satisfied. Some varieties are very rare and others no longer exist or appear in the form requested.

The pleasure and satisfaction members enjoyed at our AGM came partly from the delicious buffet prepared by our catering team but also from two excellent and engaging presentations by James Akers on his historical research and Frazer Henderson on his tulip searches in Kyrgyzstan. The intelligent and productive passion of both our speakers was impressive.

Our stallholders offered their usual enthusiastic services. Together with the many gifts brought to their tables I must mention the gifts of books from Anna Pavord and Frank and Evelyn Cusick. I confess that I enjoyed these for a few days before passing them to Teresa. I was lost for hours in Dykes' 'Notes on Tulip species' and overwhelmed by Katherine Dykes' foreword to this work. I was captivated by Blanche Henrey's bibliography. I urge members to enjoy them too. We are fortunate and grateful to have such kind and thoughtful members.

The business of our meeting was to welcome Jan Pennings as a Vice President. We are delighted to have such a distinguished expert accept this honour. We also welcome Tonnvane Wiswell as our Newsletter Editor. We offered our appreciative thanks to Jean Higginson who has filled that post admirably over recent years.

Before our AGM we paused to remember Bill Tear, who died in August. Long before Le Grand Depart from Yorkshire Bill had, as a youth, cycled over most of that route and more. He said that they returned from these trips late and knackered, swearing never to set off again. But when Sunday came they were off on another 150 mile plus ride.

Later in life he switched to motor bikes but before I met him he'd downsized from a big BMW to a Honda 50. He then relied on friends to get him to more inaccessible places. I took him on various outings with his good friend Victor Roozen. The two would meet in London for the Remembrance Day Parade and obviously shared more interests than their passion for tulips. They were

both interested in old florists' books. Bill had rescued the library of the Wakefield Paxton Society after it been discarded and, after making a few judicious sales in Sotheby's, sold the remainder to me. I'm still looking for a proper home for them.

Bill was a fine craftsman, having served his time in the Heath estate joinery. He said his master was a hard man and the only respite Bill enjoyed was on the occasions when he was sent to Heath Old Hall to salvage timber from the decaying but once magnificent building or again to fetch a Charlston Pippin from an orchard in the village. Bill's practical skills were obvious in the many ingenious contraptions he constructed. His home and garden were full of them. I was surprised both by his spiral stairs, the first I'd seen in a domestic setting, and his polytunnel, which he used for some of his show tulips.

It was showing Dutch tulips that Bill achieved pre-eminence and his regular trips south to the RHS shows in London are a measure of his commitment to the flower. We are fortunate indeed to have the prospect of the RHS show at Harlow Carr in late April and I know a good number of our members are preparing to show the RHS how beautiful really well grown tulips can be. Bill Tear would have relished this opportunity and so will we.

## Secretary's Report

**Teresa Clements**

**T**his year the Secretary's Report at the AGM was set aside to give us time to hear from James Akers about the recent progress he has made with his research into the history of the Society. I am sure everyone who heard James would agree that it was well worth the sacrifice – and it gave me a year off from reporting on the year's events, thank you James!

Early this year the Society had a message from the Hortus Bulborum, it included an invitation for one of our members to visit the garden when the breeder tulips were in bloom. The plan was to look at the collection of English Florists' tulips and to assist with identifying the bizarre breeders. John Wainwright's flying visit on the day before the 180th Annual Show was a great success. We hope it will be one of the first steps in making closer links with the staff there, who safeguard stocks of some of the Society's breeder tulips.

Both groups have an interest in what are now regarded as 'heritage' tulip cultivars and we can surely help each other to conserve these rare old tulips by

sharing information and expertise. I hope we can look forward to welcoming visitors from the Hortus Bulborum to one of our shows.

The Society's second show, the Small Show, took place two weeks after the Annual Show and the Wakefield Vase was awarded for the first time. It was quite an achievement to organise two shows in close succession and at short notice, many thanks to the exhibitors, the judges and all those involved in setting up the hall and clearing it afterwards.

A new feature of both the Annual Show and the Small Show was the reference table, where examples of cultivars that are rarely seen and those with similar characteristics were set up for inspection and comparison. Constraints of time and space and the pressure of visitor numbers meant that there was limited scope for this at the Annual Show but a splendid table of specimens emerged throughout the day at the Small Show. Blooms on the reference table could be moved, handled and photographed while those on the show-bench remained undisturbed. The discussion and exchange of information and ideas was very helpful to those of us who struggle to identify our tulips and try every year to nail some particular quality that sets each one apart from the others. We would surely all benefit if the reference table could become a regular feature of our shows.

How about reinstating another regular feature – photographing the premier blooms and having a group photo of the prize-winners? In the archive there are accounts of details of the premier blooms being recorded each year. It wouldn't take long and a good photograph of each against a plain background would give us a useful record to look back on. It would also make a significant contribution to the archive if we could have a group photo of the prize-winners too. In the past this was probably organised by a press photographer but these days the press tend to call before the awards are made. Exhibitors, committee members and stallholders are usually too busy to take a full set of photographs of the show. Would someone would like to volunteer as the official photographer to ensure we can establish a good routine for the future?

Every year we try to improve the bulb distribution. It is a great help if members can send their requests early, that is between the end of the growing season, by which time you will know which cultivars you already have, and before the end of August. During September the request list is circulated amongst growers who may be able to supply the desired bulbs. If the bulbs can then be handed over at the AGM it saves time and the expense of packing and posting. This year a greater proportion of the requests were dealt with in this way.

Keeping a record of your stock and asking for specific cultivars to fill the gaps is the best way to build up your own collection. It also benefits the

Society by spreading the rarities and increasing the likelihood of them surviving. In recent years it has been good to see the gradual build-up of several new collections. If this trend continues we can look forward to some keen competition at our shows and a continued improvement in the quality of our tulips.

Many thanks to all those who donated bulbs this year; donors were generous with their bulbs and the work they put into wrapping, labelling, posting, allocating and recording details of them. This work is absolutely essential to the purpose of the Society, we are very lucky indeed to have members who provide this wonderful service.

## **Librarian's Report**

**Marguerite Murray**

**T**he “library” of the WNETS, when it was first entrusted to my care nearly ten years ago, consisted of a cardboard box with a small number of books and a few newsletters in it. Borrowed titles were recorded in a tiny notebook. Since then the collection of books has steadily grown and I have tried to discover the best ways of cataloguing, storing and sharing what was building into an interesting resource. Jason Clements has been very helpful in producing a database which is updated each year. Occasionally a new book has been bought from Society funds but the main increase is due to gifts from members, of books, periodicals and pamphlets of appropriate content. There is a healthy mix of serious Tulip and Gardening History and Research, with some lighter but still informative publications.

This year has been notable for further impressive donations. Recently a parcel arrived at Harrogate from members Frank and Evelyn Cusick. It contained an important work by Blanche Henrey, a foremost researcher into Garden History, and consists of two volumes and a bibliography: “British Botanical and Horticultural Literature Before 1800”. To those of us with a serious interest in the subject this is an invaluable publication. On the day of the AGM, Anna Pavord arrived with another generous gift for the Society. She had been sorting out her own library - the box she left with us contained far more books than the box we had originally started with. These have now been added to the database, and among them are treasures, surprises and treats. If, when reading Anna’s own book “The Tulip”, you start to wonder at the scale and range of her research, then there are clues and traces of it in this collection of books. We are very grateful. The list of books can be provided on request by e-mail or printed if necessary by contacting the Secretary.



# Dates for your diary - events 2016

## **The Ancient Society of York Florists' Spring Show** Sunday 10 April 2016

Askham Bryan College, York, with 13 tulip classes.

Staging Sat, 5 – 10pm, Sun, 8 – 10am. Viewing, Sun, 11am – 3pm.

For more details: <http://www.ancientsocietyofyorkflorists.co.uk>

## **Alnwick Spring Show** Saturday 16 April 2016.

Willowburn Sports and Leisure Centre NE66 2JH (just off the A1).

Further info: David Parker, 16 Meadow Riggs, Alnwick, Northumberland,

NE66 1AP email: [david.intarsia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:david.intarsia@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Harrogate Spring Flower Show** Thursday 21 to Sunday 24 April 2016.

Please note the Tulip Society will not be participating. However, the Daffodil Society has some classes for tulips as part of the daffodil show.

Further info: Chris Bone, 7 Royds Close, New Mill, Holmfirth, HD9 1LR.

email: [cbone70@btinternet.com](mailto:cbone70@btinternet.com)

## **The RHS Late Daffodil and Tulip Competition** Saturday 30 April to

Sunday 1 May 2016. RHS Harlow Carr Garden. Harrogate. Crag Lane, Har-

rogate, North Yorkshire HG3 1UE At the Bramall Learning Centre. Staging

Friday evening, judging Saturday morning, access to public Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

## **Constable Burton Hall Tulip Festival** Saturday 30 April, to Monday 1 May

2016. Constable Burton Hall, Leyburn, North Yorkshire. DL8 5LJ.

The Society will have a stand for all three days.

## **Burnby Hall Gardens Tulip Festival** Sunday 23 April to Sunday 7 May

2016. Burnby Hall Gardens Pocklington. YO42 2QF

## **The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society's 181<sup>st</sup> Annual Show**

Saturday 14 May 2016.

Primrose Hall, Green Park Avenue, Horbury, Wakefield. WF4 6EG.

Staging 10am to 12noon. The classes will be called at 12 noon prompt and this will be followed immediately by judging.

Open to the public 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

**The Tulip Society's Small Show** Date and location TBC.

**The Tulip Society AGM** Saturday 1st October 2016.

Wrenthorpe Village Hall, Wakefield. WF2 0NE.

Speaker to be announced.

**Keukenhof** Dates for 2016 from 24 March to 16 May.

Further details: <http://www.keukenhof.nl/en/>

*Further information: contact the Secretary for schedules or further details about the Society's shows and events email: [secretary@tulipsociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@tulipsociety.co.uk)*

# Treasurer's Report

## Statement of Accounts Year Ending 6th August 2015

Receipts	2015	2014	
<b>Subs and Donations:</b>			
Subscriptions	1,320.96	1,264.73	
Donations	91.00	100.00	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,411.96</b>		<b>1,364.73</b>
<b>Sales:</b>			
AGM	90.50	69.30	
Constable Burton	162.25	246.85	
Main Show	303.25	333.75	
Other events	108.90	96.75	
Postal	198.62	237.30	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>863.52</b>		<b>983.95</b>
<b>Bulbs:</b>			
Hortus bulb sales	381.40	390.50	
Dutch bulbs	362.25	195.00	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>743.65</b>		<b>585.50</b>
<b>AGM &amp; Shows:</b>			
Raffle	298.14	295.00	
Refreshments	368.65	401.30	
Plant sales	175.70	144.15	
Donations: blooms etc	28.60	27.60	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>871.09</b>		<b>868.05</b>
<b>Bank:</b>			
Interest & Dividends	6.84	8.66	
Sale of Shares	446.45		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>453.29</b>		<b>8.66</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>4,343.51</b>	<b>3,810.89</b>	
<b>Statement of Assets</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Cash Assets:</b>			
Current Account	7,092.43	4,183.45	2,908.98
Abbey Account	0.00	2,374.08	-2,374.08
Cash in hand	73.86	3.13	70.73
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,166.29</b>	<b>6,560.66</b>	<b>605.63</b>
<b>Other Assets:</b>			
Banco Santander Shares	0.00	546.02	-546.02
Sales table stock	1,762.58	1,970.34	-207.76
Office equipment	334.73	848.12	-513.39
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,097.31</b>	<b>3,364.48</b>	<b>-1,267.16</b>

**Payments****2015****2014**

<b>Administration:</b>		
Newsletter (print and post)	799.25	946.92
Insurance	230.00	168.00
Stationery, Office equip. & software	310.75	27.96
Postage	162.99	260.40
Internet registrations	65.87	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,568.86</b>	<b>1,403.28</b>
<b>Purchases:</b>		
Sales table	181.25	536.71
Other	32.00	0.00
<b>Total:-</b>	<b>213.25</b>	<b>536.71</b>
<b>Bulbs:</b>		
Annual distribution	151.01	180.34
Breeders from Hortus	385.76	341.29
Dutch bulbs for AGM	350.34	541.08
<b>Total:</b>	<b>887.11</b>	<b>1,062.71</b>
<b>AGM &amp; Shows</b>		
Hall hire	254.00	206.00
Food, Table Hire etc	184.12	222.46
Trophies: Engraving & Purchase	425.50	178.25
Speakers' expenses	27.99	75.00
Other	16.30	58.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>907.91</b>	<b>739.71</b>
<b>Other:</b>		
Misc expenses	160.75	53.40
<b>Total:</b>	<b>160.75</b>	<b>53.40</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Operating surplus/deficit</b>	<b>605.63</b>	<b>15.08</b>
	<b>4,343.51</b>	<b>3,810.89</b>

1. The Society's auditor (Mr R.Turpin) reports: *I confirm that I have examined the Receipts, Payments and Statement of assets relating to the year ending 06th August 2015 and have found them to be in Order.*

2. The Committee decided to simplify our finances by selling off our holding of shares and closing the Abbey savings account, which has latterly paid only token interest rates. These transactions were not complete until 6th August 2015, hence this date is taken as the accounting year end instead of the usual 31st July.

3. It's pleasing to see that subscription income continues to grow, indicating a healthy but sustainable membership (currently 250). 15 new members joined in 2015, and we lost 24.

4. The £160.75 miscellaneous item was to pay for a visit at short notice to the Hortus Bulborum to assess their stock of English tulips after they admitted to having problems with them.

5. The trophy costs jumped this year as two of them needed extensions having run out of room for winners' names

# Minutes of AGM 3 October 2015

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

1. Chairman's welcoming remarks: Malcolm Hainsworth welcomed those attending; 64 members signed the attendance list, approximately 70 people were present. Malcolm spoke about Bill Tear who died aged 85 in August. Bill was the son of Albert Tear, both had a long association with the tulip society. Bill was a real character and wasn't always the easiest person to get on with but he always had the best interest of the society at heart. We remembered him during a minute's silence.

The Chairman then announced a change to the usual agenda; this year the Secretary's Report would appear in the newsletter but the time allotted to it at the meeting would be given over to James Akers for a talk about some important research about the archive and the archive website.

2. Apologies for absence: 17 members sent individual apologies before the AGM and best wishes and apologies came from the group of Swedish members.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM: Eric Wells proposed that the minutes be accepted by the AGM. Seconded: Wendy Akers. Agreed by the members.

4. Matters Arising: None

5. Treasurer's Report: See page 8-9

6. 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 A Pavord, Mrs W Akers, Mrs A Smales, Ms S Akers, Mrs B Pickering, J. Wainwright, M Hainsworth, J. Gibson, T Mitchell.

Chairman Mr M Hainsworth

Secretary Mrs T Clements

Treasurer Mr J Clements

Editor Ms Tonnvane Wiswell

Auditor Mr Richard Turpin.

7. Committee:

James Akers, Wendy Akers, Jason Clements, Teresa Clements, Keith Eyre,

John Gibson, Jane Green, Carole Gude, Malcolm Hainsworth, Jean Higginson, Terry Mitchell, John Wainwright.

Due for re-election this year were Keith Eyre, Jean Higginson and Carole Gude. Keith and Carole were willing to remain on the Committee in the absence of new members. Jean Higginson stepped down from the committee and as Editor of the newsletter. Tonnvane Wiswell volunteered to become the new Editor. Jan Pennings was nominated to become a Vice President. The meeting voted unanimously to accept these changes.

The Chairman thanked Jean for her sterling service as Editor for the past three years and for her work as a committee member. Tonnvane was welcomed as the new Editor. Jan Pennings was welcomed as a new Vice President and was thanked for his sustained interest and generous support. Jan expressed his gratitude and said he took great pleasure in accepting the role.

#### 8. Show dates 2015:

181st Annual Show. It was agreed that the Annual Show would be held on Saturday 14th May 2016. The Small Show. In 2015 this was two weeks after the Annual Show; the 2016 date will depend on the season. Once again the final decision will be made by the committee nearer the time. Input from the membership about likely flowering time is essential.

#### 9. Any Other Business

9.1. Jan Pennings. Jan is Chair of the RHS Bulb Committee and wished to remind members of the forthcoming RHS Late Daffodil and Tulip Competition to be held at RHS Harlow Carr Garden, 30 April 2016. He encouraged members to grow tulips with this competition in mind and to take part and put on a good show. 2016 is the first year this competition has been held in the North of England and it will be an opportunity for exhibitors who would find it difficult to take their blooms to London or Wisley to enjoy taking part in an RHS show.

9.2. Lynne Griffiths. Why doesn't the Tulip Society use social media? Lynne couldn't find the date and location of the AGM on Facebook. Tonnvane Wiswell offered to set up a Facebook page. The Secretary responded. This had been considered by the committee and had been rejected. It will be reconsidered. The Society has a webpage with information about tulips and a full list of show dates and events with venues and locations. The Society is a traditional group and so far it has been difficult to see how it would benefit from using Facebook.

10. Archive News. James Akers was thanked for an excellent talk. The AGM closed for lunch at 13.00.

# Obituary

## **Bill Tear 1930-2015**

**W**e are all unique but some people stand out amongst the crowd and Bill Tear was one of those people. He was a big man and from his big mutton chop whiskers to his big voice and his big ideas; you couldn't help but notice him. I only knew him in what turned out to be the very last few years of his life but his big personality and his enthusiasm for taking up a new idea and doing something about it were undiminished by age.

Bill was born in Altofts, Wakefield, on 1 January 1930 in the fruit and veg shop where his mother worked; he weighed '9 lb plus a large potato'. Many in the Tulip Society will recognise the name of his father, Albert Tear, after whom a bybloemen tulip and the Albert Tear Memorial Cup, awarded for the Premier Bloom in the Annual Show, are named. As a boy, Bill ran errands for his parents, cycling to deliver the shoes Albert had repaired and hoping for a tip. He left school early during the war and his life in horticulture began with the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. After the war he did his National Service in the RAF, some of the time stationed in Germany.

Back home in Wakefield, he was sought after for the fine quality of his workmanship as a joiner. He also managed to fit in a keen interest in cycling; he regularly cycled long distances in Yorkshire and made a big trip to Europe. He also maintained several allotments with his father, grew tulips, dahlias and giant onions, was a well-respected judge at tulip shows and exhibited flowers at Chelsea. Eventually he started his own nursery and garden centre; he made many trips to Holland, to buy plants, bulbs and Christmas trees, and was good friends with the late Victor Roozen, who was Patron of the Tulip Society.

It was a surprise when, aged about sixty, he sold up and moved to Suffolk. He bought a flat with a workshop below it, where he could resume his work as a joiner. This was his home until his recent death on 7 August 2015. He had no siblings nor did he marry or have any children. He has cousins in the Wakefield area and he kept in touch with friends and family there so it seemed appropriate that his funeral service was in Pontefract, where the funerals of his father and mother were held.

Bill's long association with the Tulip Society, initially with his father, makes him a significant figure in the society's history. My contact with him came as a result of the archive project. Bill relished the opportunity to

remember past times and was very generous in providing memorabilia that he had accumulated over the years. He had a reputation as an ‘awkward bugger!’ and maybe he was in his heyday, but he was also an old fashioned gentleman. If he saw what he perceived as an injustice he was compelled to speak up about it and show others the error of their ways, a trait common to many a Yorkshireman, but in addition to this he was kind hearted, clever and very funny. He loved to tell a story and it was a pleasure to listen.

In later life he had a medical condition that made walking difficult but he certainly didn’t suffer from memory loss and, until his sudden death following a fall, he was busy writing letters, making phone calls and working on practical tasks such as painting, joinery and photography. His death came as a great shock, he was 85 years old, a grand age, but he seemed set for another ten years at least. I will miss him telling me what he had been up to, sending photographs to Countryfile, researching his father’s war record, his mother’s ancestry, planting bargain bulbs in the garden, trying out a new way to cook potatoes in the microwave and often asking could I look up something on the Internet for him? There was always so much going on. Most of all I will miss hearing him chuckling over tales from the past.

One of the last things Bill did was to send some bulbs of *Tulipa* ‘Albert Tear’ to the Hortus Bulborum. He had enjoyed growing them in his garden last year and confirmed they were good. Then he lifted them and sent them with a letter and photograph to the Hortus. He could have kept them another year but he wanted them to go to the Hortus for safe-keeping. What a timely act that seems now.

Bill’s funeral was on 2 September 2015. The proceeds of his estate will go to a charity for servicemen who have been blinded in action. Albert Tear lost an eye fighting in the First World War and Bill’s legacy is surely a final tribute to his father.



**Bill Tear, a significant figure in the Society’s history. Photo: Teresa Clements**

**Teresa Clements**



## Obituary

### Josie Gibson 1944-2015

It was with great sadness that I received an email from John Gibson on Friday the 6th of November to say his wife Josie had passed away that day at 2-30pm, I knew Josie had been ill for some years with MS and other debilitating conditions and that in recent times had spent long periods in one hospital or another but her passing was still a big shock to me and must have broken John's world apart.

I first met John and Josie many many years ago, through John's and my love of Auriculas and the Auricula Society and then Old English Florists' Tulips and the Tulip Society. I think it fair to say that most of you will know John or have seen him at shows and events but not Josie, I think it also fair to say Josie's interest in Florists' flowers were the same as my wife's, in short not really interested.

I saw Josie often on visits to John's and while John did his thing with Florists' flowers Josie interests was sport, I don't know if she enjoyed all sports but I seem to think most if not all and especially football, and tennis to name just two. I believe Josie and John used to go to the Huddersfield Town games and I know Josie was a passionate supporter of her team. I seem to recall John telling me she could get very vocal at times depending how the game was going!

Another of John and Josie's pleasures in life was walking; I believe they were members of a local walking group who would meet up out in the wilds to walk well planned treks, stopping for a light lunch and refreshments along the way. With this in mind I thought how cruel it was when her condition worsened and meant this pleasure could no longer take place and then sport was only available to her via TV. You may not have seen John in recent times at shows and events because as Josie's condition worsened he would stay at home to look after her, better than any nurse or doctor would that's for sure. They were such a devoted couple and there is no doubt that Josie's passing has left a huge void in John's life that will never be filled. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. I am sure the whole Society sends its deepest sympathy and condolences to John at this sad time.

**Terry Mitchell**



# Obituary

## Eileen Robinson 1920-2015

Eileen was one of the loveliest ladies I ever knew: kind, warm and generous in nature; beautiful, petite, elegant in appearance and graced with a gentle presence which I and so many others found endearing. Her marriage to Arthur Robinson, Secretary of The Ancient Society of York Florists for twenty five years, was a long and happy one. They met during primary school and married soon after the war. Arthur had been in the Tank Regiment in Burma while back in Leeds Eileen worked as a warplane riveter. Arthur always teased her by saying he was glad he hadn't joined the RAF! Arthur became a Police Officer and they bought a house in Acomb, York where they lived throughout their marriage. They were blessed with a son Philip and three grandsons. Their great passion was ballroom dancing which took them on many holidays all over the country. When Arthur retired and took on the running of the ASYF Eileen was his great support sharing the paper work and proof-reading schedules. She attended all the shows helping with baking and serving teas. Her fruit loaf was to die for! She would bake large batches which were sold to boost the Society's coffers. She was - like all who quietly work behind the scenes at such events - an unsung hero and perhaps this is a time to reflect and appreciate all who volunteer their time so freely in this way.

Arthur, as we know, was a gifted gardener. He created a beautiful garden which ran down to the railway line. Unlike some couples, there existed no horticultural rivalry and although Eileen loved the garden, she wisely gave Arthur free reign! Chrysanthemums were her favourites but she delighted in all the florists' flowers, many of which Arthur grew to perfection. In spring the garden at Jennifer Grove was graced with fine tulips thus enabling him to exhibit from time to time. I recall with fondness the pleasure it gave me to present

**Arthur and Eileen Robinson: "Arthur was a gentleman and Eileen a gentlewoman". Photo courtesy of the Robinson family.**



him with a prize at one of our spring shows. Arthur was proud of the Society's links to the prestigious Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society and he worked tirelessly to strengthen and preserve them. One of the great highlights in Arthur and Eileen's lives was an invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. At the time they were well into their eighties but from the photograph of that special day they couldn't have looked a more handsome couple! After Arthur died in 2012, Eileen bravely continued to live on in the family home with the help of her loving family.

I shall miss Eileen in so many ways and especially afternoon tea at Jennifer Grove where she would produce a delicious afternoon tea, beautifully presented on a pristine embroidered tablecloth complete with the prettiest floral china. Then she would sit back and listen attentively to Arthur as he talked about Society matters. As your chairman Malcolm Hainsworth so perfectly stated, "Arthur was a gentleman and Eileen a gentlewoman".

**Penelope Dawson-Brown**

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## **10 cents Netherlands Coin 1942**

### **Marguerite Murray**

**D**uring the occupation by Germany of The Netherlands in World War II, coins containing copper and silver were taken out of circulation and replaced with coins made from cheaper alloys. The 10 cents coin had a stylised image of three tulips on one side. It measures 2 cm in diameter and feels quite harsh to handle.

**Photos: Marguerite Murray**



# Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society Shows 2015

**Teresa Clements**

This year the 180th Annual Show was held on Saturday 9 May 2015. After a late season, this was early for some northern growers and the committee set the date for the recently reinstated 'Small Show' two weeks after the Annual Show. Nature intervened again and the first of those weeks was so warm that only one week would have been sufficient for most growers to have their tulips ready to show. It seems we will always be at the mercy of the weather.

With a spread of growers from the north of Scotland to the south coast and from as far away as Halmstad, Sweden, it is hard to set a date that will please everyone. However, the Annual Show turned out to be a good one with 42 exhibitors. Stewards hurried to provide an extra table to accommodate the blooms. It was very pleasing to see three growers between them putting up two entries in each of the classes for 12 dissimilar English Florists' tulips. It takes dedication, skill and a good collection of cultivars to make up a set of 12. As the number of flowers per class decreases, the competition hots up; there were four entries in a class for nine different varieties of breeder tulips and eight entries in the class for six breeder tulips. This is an encouraging sign of the interest and commitment to showing within the Society. A single tulip is sufficient to enter in some classes and all members are encouraged to bring their English Florists' tulips to take part.

Among the prizewinners was Judy Baker, who had a good

**Alice Green with Bob Bingham.**  
**Alice won The James Akers Trophy**  
**Photo: James Akers**





**Grown by Alice Green, this bloom won the James Akers Trophy for Best Feather in Show  
Photo: James Akers**

show this year and won nine trophies, this success following last year's disappointment when all her tulips were over well before the show date, leaving her without any to exhibit. Ulf Hansson from Halmstad, who won the Novice Cup last year, took the Eyre Family Trophy for 12 breeder tulips this year. John Snocken, who last year had a similar season to Judy Baker, won the Needham Memorial Trophy for 12 rectified (broken) English Florists' tulips this year.

Alice Green, who won the Novice Cup in 2013 and at only 13 years of age now competes with the 'big boys' in the Open Classes, won the Elizabeth Smith Silver Medal that is awarded to the youngest exhibitor and the James Akers Trophy for the Best Feathered tulip in show. Alice also amassed a creditable number of points in the Open Classes, coming third

behind two well-established growers and ahead of many others. Well done Alice!

It was a bizarre year, the Best Flame was Judy Baker's 'James Wild' and Best Feathered was Alice Green's 'Lord Stanley'. Best Breeder and the Premier Bloom was 'Goldfinder' shown by Judy Baker, a flower that regularly wins these awards as it has such outstanding colour and form.

In contrast to last year, I did well in the Dutch classes but none of my English tulips were ready for the Annual Show. Along with some other growers, I waited another two weeks and took my English Florists' tulips to the Small Show held in Wrenthorpe on Sunday 24th May 2015. Keith Eyre and Jane Green had two tables of tulips to judge. There were 19 exhibitors, mainly from Yorkshire, the furthest afield being from Edinburgh and Wilmslow. On the



schedule were ten classes for Dutch or species tulips, though few of these remained in bloom, and ten classes for English Florists' tulips. The prizes were well spread amongst the exhibitors in the English classes but as I had most points I was presented with the Society's new trophy, the Wakefield Vase, by Harriet Gash.

As might be expected there were far fewer members and visitors attending the small show but having two shows gave most growers the opportunity to show their tulips and the general feeling was that this had been a good year; the flowers were fully formed and of a good size so they were definitely mature, but they were also fresh and did not look as if they had been held back in the fridge for two weeks. No one counted, but the Annual Show seemed to have a record number of visitors in the afternoon and it was good to have a splendid show of beautiful tulips

for them to see. Many thanks to the judges, stewards, kitchen volunteers, donors of refreshments, plants and raffle prizes, stallholders, exhibitors and all the many volunteers who contribute so much and work hard to make these shows possible. Special thanks to Bob Bingham for presenting the trophies.



**Above: Judy Baker won many awards this year. Photo James Akers. Below: Bob Bingham presents Ulf Hansson with The Eyre Family Trophy Photo: Teresa Clements**



# The 180th Annual Tulip Show Results

## 9 May 2015

### Vase Classes

**Class 1 Tulip Championship of Great Britain, 3 Vases of 9 Tulips (Three different varieties)** (1): 1. Teresa Clements (Harrogate): Roi du Midi, Dordogne, Ballerina.

**Class 2 Vase of 9 Tulips (One variety)** (6): 1. Chris Bone (New Mill): Toyota. 2. Teresa Clements: Roi du Midi. 3. Cynthia Day (Ackworth): (unknown).

**Class 3 Vase of 3 Tulips (One variety, red, pink or orange)** (12): 1. Teresa Clements: Ad Rem. 2. Cynthia Day: Menton. 3. David Day (Ackworth): Menton.

**Class 4 Vase of 3 Tulips (One variety, white, cream or yellow)** (9): 1. Teresa Clements: Clearwater. 2. Alice Green (North Ferriby): (unknown). 3. David Parker (Alnwick): Maureen.

**Class 5 Vase of 3 Tulips (One variety, any other colour)** (14): 1. Jean Wyatt (Barnsley): Helmar. 2. Gerry Corrigan (Oxford): Queen of Night. 3. Elaine Lever (Beachampton): (fringed black).

**Class 6 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips** (1): 1. Malcolm Hainsworth (York): (mixed).

**Class 7 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips** (1): 1. Alice Green: (mixed Rose breeders).

**Final preparations for judging at the Annual Show. Photo: James Akers**



## Open Classes

### **Class 8 The Eyre Family Trophy, Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties)**

(2): 1. Ulf Hansson (Halmstad): Lord Stanley, Goldfinder, James Wild, James Akers, Halmstad, Music, Albert Tear, Argyre, Mabel, Solis, Juliet, Cassius. 2. Judy Baker (Hitcham): Goldfinder, Lemuria, Airy, Lord Stanley, Albert Tear, Trefoil Guild, Music, Columbine, Judy Baker, Aonius, Parisii, Juliet.

### **Class 9 Needham Memorial Cup, Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips (all dissimilar)**

(2): 1. John Snocken (Bridgnorth): James Wild, Sir Joseph Paxton, Royal Sovereign, Lord Stanley, Agbrigg, Adonis, Constable Burton, Columbine, Wakefield Fea, Mabel Fea, Mabel Fl, Wakefield Fl. 2. Judy Baker: Sam Barlow, Royal Sovereign, Lord Frederick Cavendish, Sir Joseph Paxton, Agbrigg, Adonis, Columbine, Albert Tear, Ruth Duthie, Juliet, Akers, Julia Farnese.

### **Class 10 Royles Jubilee Cup, Stand of 9 Breeders (different varieties)**

(4): 1. Judy Baker: Goldfinder, Lemuria, Sam Barlow, Talisman, Albert Tear, Wendy Akers, Mabel, Juliet, Rosie Wainwright. 2. S John Gibson (Kettering): Sam Barlow, James Wild, Lord Stanley, Music, Argyre, Columbine, Gloria, Juliet, Mabel. 3. Ulf Hansson: Sam Barlow, Lord Stanley, Goldfinder, Albert Tear, Music, Argyre, Mabel, Cassius, Solis.

### **Class 11 Local Silver Challenge Cup, Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar)**

(3): 1. Judy Baker: Mabel, Trefoil Guild, Airy, Akers, Constable Burton, Lord Frederick Cavendish, Juliet, Adonis, Royal Sovereign. 2. John Snocken: Goldfinder, Wendy Akers, Gloria, Sir Joseph Paxton, Constable Burton, Mabel, Royal Sovereign, Agbrigg, Wakefield. 3. Alice Green: Bessie, Judy Baker, Goldfinder, Jane L Eyre, Akers, James Wild, Adonis, Mabel, Jack Taylor.

### **Class 12 Silver Challenge Cup, Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips**

(3): 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley, Dr Hardy, Adonis, Constable Burton, Julia Farnese, Akers Flame. 2. John Snocken: Royal Sovereign, James Wild, Halmstad, Albert Tear, Mabel, Wakefield. 3. Judy Baker: Lord Frederick Cavendish, Sir Joseph Paxton, Habit de Noce, Columbine, Ruth Duthie, Wakefield.

### **Class 13 The G.S.Hunter Memorial Cup, Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties)**

(8): 1. John Gibson (Kirkburton): Lord Stanley, Goldfinder, Music, Talisman, Mabel, Juliet. 2. Alice Green: Jack Taylor, James Wild, Bessie, Talisman, Juliet, Gloria. 3. Judy Baker: Airy, Goldfinder, Wendy Akers, Albert Tear, Mabel, Cassius.

### **Class 14 Stages Cup, Pan of 3 stages: one Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered**

(3): 1. Judy Baker: James Wild (x 3). 2. John Snocken: Columbine (x 3). 3. Alice Green: Lord Stanley, Lord Frederick Cavendish, Lord Stanley.

### **Class 15 Silver Plate, Pan of 3 Breeders: one Bizarre, one Bybloemen, one Rose**

(10): 1. Judy Baker: Lemuria, Cydonia, Judy Baker. 2. Jean Richardson

(Leeds): Goldfinder, Music, Juliet. 3. Tim Lever (Beachampton): Sam Barlow, Music, Aonius.

**Class 16 Three Flamed (5):** 1. John Snocken: Lord Stanley, Talisman, Mabel. 2. Alice Green: Jack Taylor, Bessie, Akers Fl. 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley, Bessie, Wakefield.

**Class 17 Three Feathered (1):** 1. Judy Baker: Royal Sovereign, Adonis, Solis.

**Class 18 Pair of Flamed (5):** 1. John Snocken: Sir Joseph Paxton, Mabel. 2. Keith Eyre (South Cave): Sir Joseph Paxton, Columbine. 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley, Bessie.

**Class 19 Pair of Feathered (4):** 1. Keith Eyre: Lord Stanley, Julia Farnese. 2. Alice Green: Lord Stanley, Judy Baker. 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley, Julia Farnese.

**Class 20 One Breeder (20):** 1. John Gibson: Goldfinder. 2. Jean Richardson: Goldfinder. 3. Judy Baker: Juliet.

**Class 21 One Flamed (16):** 1. Judy Baker: James Wild. 2. Alice Green: Lord Stanley. 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lemon Paxton.

**Class 22 One Feathered (8):** 1. Trevor Myers (Wilmslow): Lord Stanley. 2. Margery Walkington (York): Habit de Noce. 3. Judy Baker: Agbrigg.

## Seedling Classes

**Class 23 Seedling Cup, One Seedling Breeder or Rectified raised by the exhibitor (4):** 1. John Wainwright (Wrenthorpe): Utopia. 2. John Wainwright: Aonius. 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: unnamed.

**Class 24 Three Seedling Breeders (one from each colour class)** (No entries).

## Novice Classes

**Class 25 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (5):** 1. Marjorie Butlin (St Neots): Music Br, Music Fl, Music Fea. 2. Chris Gill (Southowram): Aonius Br, Sir Joseph Paxton Fl, Music Fea. 3. David Day: Lord Stanley Br, Lord Stanley Fl, Juliet Fea.

**Class 26 One Breeder (27):** 1. Christine Brooks (Belper): Juliet. 2. John Paddick (Winchester): Judy Baker. 3. Chris Gill: Juliet.

**Class 27 One Flamed (12):** 1. David Bonser (Craster): Mabel. 2. Janet Butlin (St Neots): Wakefield. 3. Natasha McEwen (Northumberland): Lord Stanley.

**Class 28 One Feathered (12):** 1. Christine Brooks: Lord Frederick Cavendish. 2. Chris Gill: Bessie. 3. Janet Butlin: Wakefield.

**Class 29 The Gina Roozen Cup, Pan of 3 Breeders: one Bizarre, one**



**Bybloemen , one Rose** (3): 1. Chris Gill: Hubert Calvert, Music, Sam Barlow.  
2. Don Palmer (Ashford): Juliet, Bessie, James Wild. 3. Robin Crouchman  
(Saffron Walden): Juliet, Music, Lemuria.

### **Extra Open Classes**

**Class 30 One Breeder** (22): 1. John Gibson: Lord Stanley. 2. Joanna Spencer  
(Shropshire): Hubert Calvert. 3. Keith Eyre: Utopia.

**Class 31 One Flamed** (9): 1. Margery Walkington: Mabel. 2. Jenny Orrell  
(Wrenthorpe): Wakefield. 3. David Day: Lord Stanley.

**Class 32 One Feathered** (1): 3. Joanna Spencer: unidentified bybloemen

**Class 33 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered**  
(No entries).

## **Points Classes**

**F R Hunter Cup, Most points in Vase classes** (2 - 5): 1. Teresa Clements:

**Jim Akers Memorial Goblet, Most points in Open classes** (8 - 22): 1. Judy  
Baker:

**Brook Silver Challenge Cup & Glass Goblet, Most points in Novice classes**  
(25 -29): 1. Chris Gill:

**Glass Goblet, Most points in Extra Open Classes** (30 - 33): 1. John Gibson:

## **Premier Bloom Awards**

**Elizabeth Smith Silver Medal, Youngest Exhibitor under 18 years of age:**  
Alice Green:

**The James Akers Trophy, Best Feather in Show:** Alice Green: Lord  
Stanley.

**The Wendy Akers Trophy, Best Flame in Show:** Judy Baker: James Wild.

**The Keith Eyre Trophy, Best Breeder Tulip in Show:** Judy Baker:  
Goldfinder.

**Peter Emmett Trophy, Best Exhibit Classes 2 - 5:** Teresa Clements: Ad Rem.

**Cochrane of Cults Vase, Best Bloom Classes 20 - 22:** Judy Baker: James  
Wild.

**The Dudmaston Plate, Best Bloom in Novice Classes 25-29:** Marjorie But-  
lin: Columbine Fl.

**S Knowles Cup, Best Bloom in Extra Open Classes 30 - 33:** John Gibson:  
Lord Stanley Br.

**Albert Tear Memorial Trophy, Overall Premier Bloom:** Judy Baker:  
Goldfinder.

# Results of the WNETS Small Show

## 24 May 2015

### Vase Classes

**Class 1 The John Hardman Memorial Vase, Vase of 18 Tulips (One variety)** (1): 1. Teresa Clements (Harrogate): Batalini 'Bright Gem'.

**Class 2 Vase of 9 Tulips (One variety)** (1): 1. Teresa Clements: Battalini 'Bright Gem'.

**Class 3 Vase of 3 Tulips, Darwin hybrid or Single late (One variety)** (2): 1. Teresa Clements: Menton.

**Class 4 Vase of 3 Tulips, Lily flowered (One variety)** (2): 1. Linda Chapman (Pickering): Elegant Lady. 2. Teresa Clements: Red Shine.

**Class 5 Vase of 3 Tulips, Parrot (One variety)** (1): 1. Linda Chapman: Bright Parrot.

**Class 6 Vase of 3 Tulips, Fringed (One variety)** (No entries).

**Class 7 Vase of 3 Tulips, Double (One variety)** (No entries).

**Class 8 Vase of 3 Tulips, Multi-headed (One variety)** (No entries).

**Class 9 Vase of 5 Tulips (species or small-flowered)** (No entries).

**Class 10 A pot or pan of species or small-flowered tulips** (No entries).

### Florists' Tulips Classes

**Class 11 Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar)** (2): 1. Teresa Clements: Gloria, Agbrigg, Sir Joseph Paxton, Akers, Talisman, Lord Stanley, Cassius, Albert Tear, Gloria. 2. Trevor Myers (Wilmslow): Royal Sovereign, Julia Farnese, Albert Tear, Lord Stanley, Wakefield, Columbine, James Wild, Mabel, Music.

**Class 12 Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips** (4): 1. Teresa Clements: Mabel Fl, Mabel Fea, Mrs Calvert Fl, Mrs Calvert Fea, Lord Frederick Cavendish, Sir Joseph Paxton. 2. Malcolm Hainsworth (York): Akers, Julia Farnese, Columbine, Constable Burton, Sir Joseph Paxton, James Wild. 3. Trevor Myers: Wakefield, Akers, Talisman, unknown, Lord Stanley, Royal Sovereign.

**Class 13 Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties)** (6): 1. John Wainwright (Wrenthorpe): Airy, Goldfinder, Talisman, Wendy Akers, Rosie Wainwright, Gloria. 2. Teresa Clements: Lord Stanley, Goldfinder, Albert Tear, Bessie, Cassius, Juliet. 3. Mike Higgins (Dacre): Lord Stanley, Sulphur, Music, Talisman, Juliet, Mabel.

**Class 14 Pan of 3 stages: one Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered** (4): 1. Chris Gill (Southowram): Talisman, Columbine, Columbine. 2. Teresa Clements: James Wild (x3). 3. Trevor Myers: Lord Stanley, Lord Frederick Cavendish, Lord Stanley.

**Class 15 Pan of 3 Breeders: one Bizarre, one Bybloemen, one Rose** (10): 1.

Chris Gill: Goldfinder, Talisman, Juliet. 2. Teresa Clements: James Wild, Albert Tear, Mabel. 3. Harriet Gash (Edinburgh): Goldfinder, Music, Mabel.

**Class 16 Pair of Flamed (7):** 1. Teresa Clements: Lord Stanley, Mabel. 2. Mike Higgins: Wakefield, Dr Hardy. 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley, Akers.

**Class 17 Pair of Feathered (5):** 1. Teresa Clements: Lord Frederick Cavendish, Adonis. 2. Mike Higgins: Sir Joseph Paxton, Wakefield. 3. Trevor Myers: James Wild, Adonis.

**Class 18 One Breeder (27):** 1. Cynthia Day (Ackworth): Mabel. 2. Sarah Brooks (Sheffield): Sam Barlow. 3. Teresa Clements: Cassius.

**Class 19 One Flamed (16):** 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: James Wild. 2. Teresa Clements: Columbine. 3. Mike Higgins: Talisman.

**Class 20 One Feathered (11):** 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: James Wild. 2. Mike Higgins: Agbrigg. 3. Teresa Clements: Wakefield.

## Points Classes

**The Wakefield Trophy, Most points in Florists' Tulips classes (11-20):**  
Teresa Clements.

**A selection of flowers on display at the Small Show. Photo: John Wainwright**



# The Reference Table

Teresa Clements

As mentioned in the Secretary's Report, this year we had a reference table at both of our shows. Seeing several examples of the same cultivar grouped together confirmed the overall colour and form of each one and it was particularly useful in those cases where we had examples of the breeder, flame and feather.

It was also interesting to compare very similar cultivars. The picture shows four flowers that are easily confused. Viewed from different angles, tiny differences can be picked out. The notes I made at the time say;

**Columbine:** Bowl shaped, Outer petal pointed and inner petal rounded at the top.

**Habit de Noce:** Dark markings, similar to Agbrigg but the petals grip more closely.

**Agbrigg:** Very dark markings, similar to Habit de Noce but has looser petals,

**Adonis:** Bowl shaped. Anther top just lower than stigma.

These small differences can be seen more clearly when the flowers are before you and can be closely examined, it is hard to pick them out from the photograph. However, seeing the flowers together shows why setting up a reference table at shows in future has great potential for helping with the identification of unnamed tulips.

**Right: tulip cultivars compared. The picture shows four flowers that are easily confused. Side by side the differences between the blooms can be seen. Photo: Teresa Clements**



Columbine







Habit de Noce

Agbrigg

Adonis





Above: the reference table at this year's Small Show. Photo: Teresa Clements



# The Tulip Trial: RHS Wisley Garden Spring 2015

Teresa Clements



In 2014, RHS Wisley had a demonstration of tulips; over 300 different cultivars were displayed, around 14,000 bulbs in total. Visitors voted for their favourites and a list of ‘the people’s choice’ was compiled. Three Triumph Group tulips emerged as the overall winners; in third place, ‘Apricot Perfection’; in second place, ‘Tender Whisper’ and winning most votes was ‘Timeless’

The RHS followed this popular demonstration with a trial of 82 different tulip cultivars selected by the RHS Bulb Committee, they included the top twenty of the people’s choice. 50 bulbs of each cultivar were supplied. – 42 were planted in the open ground; the remaining eight were planted in pots and displayed in the small gardens.

A panel of assessors was drawn up. The trial bed was viewed by at least two assessors at weekly intervals and the trials officer at RHS Wisley made daily observations. The tulips were rated according to a points system at each visit and the trials officer compiled a final list of results. At the end of the trial the panel met and discussed which tulips retained their existing RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM) and which would receive a new AGM. Tulips were judged on the following points: Impact and Novelty; Colour and Form; Longevity of the flower; Vigour and stance; and Resistance to Pests and Disease

As a new member of the RHS Bulb Committee I was

**Red Hat – good, strong red,  
fringed and long-lasting. Photo:  
Teresa Clements**





**Above: Ice Cream - would score high on impact and novelty. Photo: Teresa Clements**

pleased to join the panel of assessors and made several visits to Wisley to see the tulips. The first of these was on 7 April 2015, before any of the tulips were in bloom. How could I assess them at this stage? Initially it was hard to distinguish between them but close and careful inspection meant it was possible to mark them on vigour and stance and on their resistance to pests and diseases. On subsequent visits the flowers were far more prominent, giving an impression of how well the tulips would perform in the garden.

There was a lot of interest in the trial from people visiting RHS Wisley and it was fascinating to hear their comments. I didn't always agree with what I heard! Personal preference differs quite a lot, I like tulips with a traditional tulip shape and a good colour, however, visitors were often drawn to double, paeony-like flowers or colours that to me seemed indistinct. Panel members came from varied backgrounds and brought their own views to the final meeting to give a fair overall assessment when awarding AGMs.

For me, the trial was an interesting, enjoyable and educational experience. I learned to look at tulips in a different way, not just as flowers on the show bench but as most of the gardening public see them, as spring plants to provide colour, texture and variety to the garden. The flower is of paramount importance but the foliage and the stance of the whole plant matter too, as does the shedding of the bloom once flowering is over.

Magazine articles about the trial have made much of the award winners but I will also remember the ones that didn't make it and why.

There were lots of worthy winners but if I had to pick a couple, I thought 'Angels Wish' was outstanding and my runner up would have to be 'Red Hat'; both are sturdy, long-lasting and uniform when in a group but with great individual quality. 'Angels Wish' has an elegant, creamy white flower held in a stately manner on a strong stem. The public loved it and photographed it in bright sunshine and low afternoon light. 'Red Hat' has a cute and endearing quality, short stemmed with the waxy, red, fringed flowers looking slightly fuzzy and standing like toy soldiers boldly facing the wind.

**Above right: Angels Wish – A popular choice, sturdy and uniform. Bottom right: early May and the beds are in flower. Photos: Teresa Clements**





# Garden visit: Scampston Hall

**Teresa Clements**

This year the garden visit was planned at quite short notice but 19 people made up the group that visited Scampston Hall and the Walled Garden in the East Riding of Yorkshire on Sunday 26 July. As the day approached the weather forecast was quite alarming. The TV map showed a large blue blob of cloud heading our way and persistent heavy rain was expected. Oh dear.

We packed raincoats and wellington boots with our picnic but when we arrived the weather was fine. The impending deluge focused the mind on seeing the garden while the sun shone but after a warm welcome from the Scampston Staff we couldn't resist an early visit to the café for coffee and cookies before setting off to explore.

The Walled Garden was planted in 1999 to a design by Piet Oudolf, who is well known for his modern style and particularly for his use of drifts of ornamental grass. The garden is divided into 12 sections and is approached by a path within the old perimeter wall. Visitors were given a planting plan and a list of plant names, which enabled us to put names to those we couldn't identify as all the plants were numbered.

The planting along the wall included box clipped into cloud-like shapes, which provided a good foil for the more unusual and exotic plants. At the other side of the path, small gaps in the hedge allowed glimpses of the delights to come. Each section had its own charms; there were gardens for cut flowers, fruit and vegetables, which provide produce for the restaurant and the hall; a







large, central meadow full of colourful perennials, a sparkling fountain and the serpentine garden, which had yew cut into sinuous hedges that repeated the shape of the curving drifts of grass in yet another area.

The ‘Silent Garden’ was my favourite; small birds moved swiftly over the surface of the water swallowing insects on the wing. Were they swifts or swallows? I don’t know but

**Scampston Hall was built around 1700 and gained its current shape when remodelled a century later.**

**Photo: Jeff Pickering**

the sensation of walking amongst them as they sped past was delightful. This formal garden with its close cropped grass, stately pillars of yew and a pool of glimmering water reflecting the bright sky was calm and quiet, a perfect retreat from the exuberant colour and bustle in the other gardens.

The rain held off as we made our way to the far corner of the garden, where there was a most unusual garden feature, the mount. Set in a small orchard of cherry trees, a flight of steps led to a platform on top of a square mound with steep, sloping, grassy sides. Several children were busy running up the steps and rolling down the turf while the adults gazed out over the garden from this vantage point and took in the view. It was the perfect place to appreciate the design of the garden and see the repeated colours and motifs.

Using a modern design from Piet Udolf for Scampston's very traditional walled garden was a bold step that has been recognised as a great success by many commentators. This was my first visit and as someone not particularly interested in ornamental grasses I thought that it might not be to my taste but I was surprised by the colour and the range of plants. An added bonus, which surely couldn't have been planned, was the way nature had moved in and brought another element of life to the garden. The birds in the silent garden were lovely and the perennial meadow had a haze of pollinating insects swooping and hovering in the air and humming their buzz of well-being.

**View from the Mount over the walled garden. Photo: James Akers**





By now the sky was darkening a little. Our visit to the hall was scheduled for 2pm; that gave us just enough time for a quick tour of the parkland before lunch. Posts with coloured symbols marked out the route as we walked through a landscape designed by Capability Brown in 1772. The Palladian bridge was an outstanding feature and there were other, more recent, additions to the park such as the parterre, the rock garden, a minibeast area and an old ice house. This is thought to have been used as an observation post in the Second World War. Along the way were some magnificent mature trees, the most notable being the 18th Century Spanish Chestnut tree.

As we headed back to the conservatory to eat our picnic lunch a few drops of rain hastened us on our way. The conservatory housed a large collection of scented pelargoniums, one of the Scampston volunteers was deadheading and watering them as we arrived. The display did her great credit as the plants were in excellent condition and made a fine show as well as perfuming the warm air. It was a very pleasant place to sit and enjoy our lunch.

The conservatory was built in 1894 and is newly restored thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund. It has several small rooms with educational exhibitions telling the story of the people who lived and worked at Scampston and shows

**Top right: the Palladian bridge. Centre right: the perimeter path of the gardens. Bottom right: the collection of scented pelargoniums in the conservatory.**  
**Photos: Jeff Pickering**





**Above: this mature Spanish Chestnut was planted in the 18th century. Photo: Jeff Pickering. Below: The Hall's conservatory. Photo: James Akers**

some of the tools the gardeners would have used.

Those of us who didn't picnic enjoyed a good lunch in the restaurant and we all assembled afterwards for a tour of Scampston Hall. Sir Percy Legard greeted us and pointed out that we were a bit late to see the tulips but were welcome nonetheless. A guide led us round the hall and showed us the treasures within. She was well informed and her engaging commentary kept us amused as well as interested in the paintings and history of the hall and its inhabitants. One keen-eyed person spotted some delicate china cups and saucers in a display cabinet painted to resemble broken tulips – so we did see some tulips after all! Alas, there is a rule that no photography is allowed within the hall for security reasons so you will have to imagine the cup sitting like a

tulip flower not on top of a beer bottle but on a saucer.

The tour lasted just over an hour and as we stepped outside fat drops of rain were falling. Out came the umbrellas as we said our farewells and hurried back to the cars. After days of anticipating a storm and casting our eyes to the sky while in the garden, the rain came just as we were leaving. We had a lovely day out and, contrary to our expectations, we managed to stay dry too!





# A Tulip called Zany

Timothy Clark

In 1980 Keith Eyre said to me, “Here is my stock of Zany. Hubert Calvert gave it to me as he gave up his allotment saying, ‘Look after my Zany for me.’ Hubert Calvert first encouraged me to join the Society, this was my way of giving gratitude.” Keith said that it was not a Florists’ tulip because the base was dirty. I have grown it since then alongside Goldfinder, which was one of Sacheverell Sitwell’s favourite tulips. As we all know Goldfinder rarely breaks well, but its brilliant scarlet makes it an excellent companion.

Zany is not a vigorous grower, but over the years I have probably returned to the Society two or three hundred bulbs because most years there are about a dozen small bulbs I have had the pleasure of returning. I had taken a casual interest in this bulb because it had been bred by the Reverend J.J. Jacob. Little thought of now, he wrote in 1912 the first book on tulips for two hundred years. In the RHS tulip records Zany is listed as having been bred in 1900. In all the years that I have grown tulips I rarely get a good break on any because I always try to get the maximum increase of bulb so they live on a rich diet. None of my tulips with their rich diet seem to take the virus as completely as those of exhibitors who by my standards starve their bulbs and make them suffer for beauty.

**This image of the painting by E A Bowles, which is now in the RHS Lindley Library, appears by kind permission of Andrew Parker Bowles.**





**Above: a trio of Zomerschoon show off their marbled colouration.**

**Photo: Ulf Hansson.**

**Right: Nellie Samson's painting of Zomerschoon. Photo:**

**Timothy Clark**

At the Spring Show at the RHS Horticultural Hall there was an exhibition of some of the paintings of E.A.Bowles. The show finished with a picture of a broken Zany. It was an exceptionally good break. The tulip Zany is listed as a feathered bizarre, the painting that Augustus Bowles made is of a quality of bloom that I have never been able to achieve.

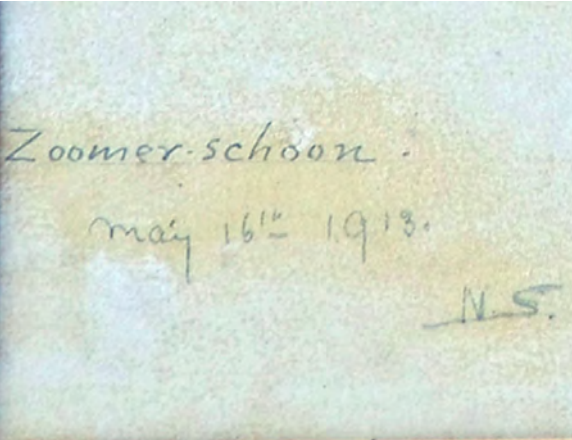
Augustus Bowles was a most talented man. He was destined for the church. His older brother had been a cleric in the East End of London, where he caught tuberculosis which led to his early death. The family asked Augustus to stay at Middleton House, Enfield, to care for the family estate. He could have been a painter of great merit, however he decided to become a gardener. Among his interests was growing Florists' tulips,





although he frequently preferred the old Dutch tulips like Picotee and Zomerschoon with their pointed petals and he never showed them on the show bench. His great trilogy of 'My Garden in Spring', 'My Garden in Summer' and 'Autumn and Winter' remain classics of their day, mentioning his pleasure in broken tulips. He was of course the Great Uncle of Andrew Parker Bowles the first husband of the Duchess of Cornwall who has graciously allowed us to use his painting to illustrate this article.

One of Bowles' friends was Dick Trotter, one time treasurer of the RHS and father of Elizabeth Parker Jarvis of snow drop fame. Now sadly deceased, she told me how Bowles would take her and her father out to select the best crocus flowers in his crocus beds. He called this 'sticking' them. Many of his most interesting paintings were done for the Trotter family, indeed, each of the Trotter children had their own Bowles painting on their bedroom door.

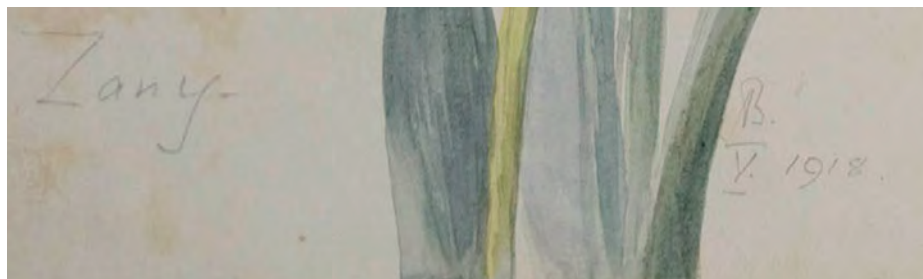


**Above: Nellie Samson's signature and date on her painting of Zomer-schoon. Right: Bowles' signature and date on his painting of Zany. Photos: Timothy Clark**

Shortly before Elizabeth died she gave me a faded watercolour of the tulip Zomerschoon, which had been commissioned by Bowles from Nellie Samson who was a popular artist at that time. This painting, had been hanging in Elizabeth's bathroom! However, to me it never looked like Zomerschoon, the colours were not correct and the shape of the flowers were not as one would expect. I assumed that the steam in the bathroom

had altered it over the years. Recently, as I took it from its frame to photograph it, I had a good look at it and realised that it is possibly Zany. Now, in consideration of all that is written above, I am asking myself why, when he was such a brilliant botanic artist, did Augustus Bowles commission Nellie Samson to paint what looks like Zany when he had already done a far better painting of it himself.? Why also did she write Zomer-schoon when it clearly was not the correct name?

**Teresa Clements writes:** Timothy wrote this article earlier this year and we enjoyed an exchange of calls and correspondence about the two pictures. When I looked closely at the photographs (that is, I zoomed in on the digital image to see clearly what would be difficult for Timothy to see by eye) I realised Nellie Samson had dated her picture 1913. E A Bowles painting is dated 1918, so her painting of Zomerschoon was done before Bowles' painting of Zany. This leads to further questions, had Bowles remembered the composition of Nellie Samson's picture when he painted Zany? They look very similar, like mirror images of each other. Bowles' painting of Zany is much finer than Samson's painting of Zomerschoon but could he have been influenced by his fashionable contemporary? Whether the two paintings represent the same tulip or two different ones, the resemblance is intriguing.





## Kyrgyzstan tulip quiz

One of the highlights of this year's AGM was Frazer Henderson's talk, "Kyrgyzstan: In Search of Tulips." At the end of the talk, we were given a quiz. Here are the descriptions of each of the tulip species he discussed: can you match them to the pictures? (Note: one extra description is included.)

T. daystemon: Greenish outer petals, striated inner petals. 2 leaves, yellow anthers, 10-20 cm.

T. zenadae: Yellow and red (and mixed yellow and red) forms. Three leaves, wide cup, yellow anthers. 15-40 cm. Black base inside.

T. heterophylla: Median lines, slight nodding, outer petals purplish/green, 10-15 cm.

T. ostrowskiana: Red form; black filaments, yellow base.

T. tarda: Violet outer petals, white inner petals, reddish stem. "Curly" leaves.

T. thianshanica: Yellow inner petal color, violet or yellow outer petal color, yellow anthers, 15 cm stem, filaments swollen.

T. tetraphylla: Petals red and yellow striped, or pure yellow; 3-7 leaves, linear, glaucous, ciliate.

*Answers on page 48*

# Visiting the Hortus Bulborum

Tonnvane Wiswell

While many casual tulip fanciers will visit Keukenhof, it is only the true obsessives that will make the detour to visit the Hortus Bulborum. For many members of WNETS, Hortus is known for its excellent collection of breeder bulbs; but for more general tulip fans around the world, it is known for its outstanding collection of historical tulips. These range all the way back to the golden age of tulips, with examples of Duc van Tol (red and yellow), as well as a good selection of species tulips. In total, they have over 2600 types of tulips, and a further selection of historical daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses, and fritillaries, all arranged in beds by type (i.e. all double lates; all Darwin hybrids) and clearly labeled. For a tulip lover, it is paradise.

Visiting, however, requires a bit of leg work. It is, nevertheless, entirely possible to visit Limmen without needing to rent a car. Pick a weekend during the tulip season (remembering that if you want to see the Breeder bulbs, you'll most likely want to come in May - when I went. the late doubles were starting but the breeders were still just buds looking like they had one or two more weeks to go). It's easy enough to find a room in Amsterdam (book early for the best deals!), and from there it's a train to Castricum and then the 167 bus to Limmen (the "Soomerweg" stop). In total, it's a one hour trip, although it can take longer on Sundays when both train and bus service are less frequent. However, the Hortus is really only a five minute walk from the bus stop, so you could hardly ask to be any closer; but you will probably want to pack a picnic lunch as food options are limited. There is a gift shop that has fantastic prices on tulips but it's cash only, so be prepared - I was so excited by the selection I nearly didn't have bus fare to get home.

If you find yourself a fan of the Hortus Bulborum, there are many ways you can get involved, from becoming a friend to adopting a bulb (this is a three year commitment). Easiest of all, though, is to support them through purchases; if you are in the EU, you can buy from them directly and get a package of delightfully antique bulbs sent directly to your home. Information for doing this can be found on their website (<http://www.hortus-bulborum.nl/webshop> - only open during the season) and makes a wonderful alternative to the commercially grown bulbs available elsewhere.

**The Hortus  
Bulborum con-  
tains historic  
cultivars  
dating back to  
the Renaissance.  
Photo: Tonnvane  
Wiswell**

For a real treat, it's also possible to see both the Hortus and Keukenhof (which also has a bed devoted to historical





tulips) in one weekend, but be sure to pack a raincoat and beware of impulse purchases - in the middle of so many beautiful tulips, it can be hard to keep your head.

# 10th Istanbul Tulip Festival

**Frazer Henderson**

Istanbul sparkles in April: brilliant splashes of colour decorate public parks, streets, road verges and traffic islands and illuminate, in glorious technicolour, the city's wondrous Byzantine, Ottoman and modernist architecture as millions of tulip blooms exuberantly announce the arrival of Spring.

Started in 2005, the city's Tulip Festival seeks to revive the flower's popularity and celebrate its contribution to Turkish culture. This year over 30 million bulbs – all propagated in Turkey – were planted.

The tulip has over the years been a source of inspiration for artists and craftsmen, particularly during the Ottoman era, so it was not surprising to see, in pride of place, in front of Hagia Sophia, Sultanahmet Square, the world's largest floral carpet. Over 500,000 bulbs in a restricted palette of deep purple, red, bright yellow and burnt orange were planted in a highly, geometric design covering 1262m<sup>2</sup>. A viewing platform – though incredibly busy – allowed an aerial appreciation of the extent of the carpet and the intricacy of its planting. Any chance of a decent photograph was sorely constrained by the crush of fellow admirers engaging in the self-indulgent, and hopefully short-lived, phenomenon of the 'selfie'. A babel of exaltations and noisy exhalations confirmed the carpet's awesomeness.

An adjoining, information panel advised visitors that "The carpet of tulips has become the reflection and voice of Istanbul's heart. Each tulip used in this very important historical area of Istanbul is the expression of Istanbulites' feelings."

In other parks the planting resembled that of Keukenhof with large drifts melding together sometimes harmoniously, sometimes deliberately clashing. Clever use of contrasting blooms allowed identifiable images to be created and sinuous, curvilinear shapes incorporating trees or existing structures or the topography of the park added to the visual attractiveness of the planting. In Gülhane Park, which adjoins Topkapı Palace gardens, most planting was clearly labelled enabling confirmation of familiar varieties.

The most extensive plantings were at Emirgân Grove, on the northern extremity of the city, with nearly 3 million bulbs. Here families – in their hundreds – come to picnic, meander the tulip fringed pathways, photograph themselves sitting amongst the plants, view the many tulip-related exhibitions on ebru (paper marbling), painting, pottery or simply listen and watch the many concerts



and live performances of traditional and contemporary music, dance and theatre.

I'd thoroughly recommend a trip to Istanbul to see the festival. All of the venues are accessible by foot, tram or the easy-to-use metro system. The Botanic Gardens, which also participate, are on the Asian side and are well worth a visit with their attractive beds, glades and extensive geophyte collection. The gardens require a short journey on the public ferry from Eminönü to Kadıköy and then the 91 bus, which drops passengers a couple of hundred yards from the gardens' entrance. All of the Festival venues including the Botanic Gardens are free to enter. It is worth noting that the weather in April can be unpredictable, I experienced sleet and high temperatures (20 degrees centigrade) on consecutive days this year.

The Turks believe that happiness is stored within the tulip bulb; the flowering earlier this year in Istanbul certainly delivered pleasure and joy for this visitor!

For more details on the festival see <http://www.wittistanbul.com/magazine/dont-miss-the-international-istanbul-tulip-festival/> and for the Botanic Gardens <http://www.ngbb.org.tr/en>

**Millions of blooms celebrated the tulip's role in Turkish art and culture over centuries. Photos: Frazer Henderson**



# The New Online Archive Website

**James Akers**

As most members will already know, the Society received Heritage Lottery funding to transfer its archive documents to the Borthwick Institute in York. In parallel with the organisation of the documents to be transferred, an Archive website was created so that the data in these documents could be made freely available to everyone wishing to gain access to the information.

As a first step in the process the four existing minute books of the Society which cover the period from 4 November 1907 until 1992 have been transferred to the Borthwick Institute and the minutes made available online. The purpose of this article is to explain to the reader how access can be made to the Minute Books. The data in the first minute book, 1907 to 1929 has been checked and is fairly accurate. There are errors in the data for the other three books but it has been decided that access will be allowed while checking of the data takes place, although this may take a number of months for completion.

The address with which to start is [wnets.org.uk](http://wnets.org.uk) which will generate a screen with a heading displaying the following options.

## **HOME CONTEXT ARCHIVES PRE 1907 TIMELINE VOICES AROUND WAKEFIELD**

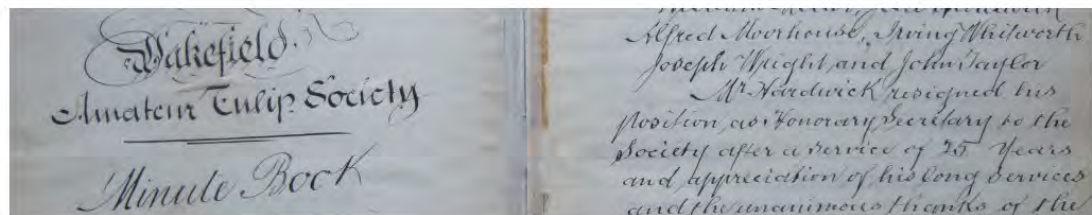
Using the mouse to click on ARCHIVES will give access to the four minute books. Using the first minute book as an example, access to this book is obtained by clicking Minute book 1 (4 November 1907 – 1929)

This will give access to the 147 meetings which were recorded during the period covered in the book. Clicking on an individual meeting will produce a screen which shows the text on the left hand side of the screen with a reduced size photograph of the actual page/s from the minute book on the right. The text is not displayed in a block, but instead line by line to mimic the actual record.

Clicking on the photograph of the page of the minute book will create a separate screen showing a larger photograph of the page. Exiting this screen will return you to the previous screen.

At the top and bottom of the screen containing the text and page photographs are shown the date of the previous meeting (on the left) and the date of the following meeting (on the right). Clicking on either of these dates will give you





## Home

The [Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society](#), established 1836, has a wealth of historical material, which was scattered in various locations. In addition to this tangible material there was an inestimable wealth of stories and information that had never been written down. This led to the idea for an archive project to ensure the items and memories were brought together and preserved as a collection.

In September 2011 the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) agreed to finance a project called "Tulips, Old Flames and Feathers!" The HLF funding was to provide the means to set up and preserve the society's historical material as a collection to be kept at the [Borthwick Institute](#) in York. Setting up the archive presented us with the opportunity to compile a history of the society as old minute books, correspondence, photographs and show reports were read and catalogued. Alongside this, [recordings](#) would be made of the memories of people with long-standing family connections with the society, some over several generations. The project was aimed at sharing this rich history with others through talks and displays and through an Internet website that will be a valuable resource for years to come.

The growing popularity of investigating ancestry and local history and the resurgence of an interest in gardening made the timing of the project ideal. By direct contact with local people and with an online resource, we could make our heritage available as widely as possible. The contact was important so the public could see living flowers and exchange stories and information as they participated in our events.

**Above: the Society's online archive gives** the screen containing the text and page photographs for the relevant meeting.

**free instant access to decades of historic records** This allows access to a sequence of meetings without returning to the screen containing the 147 meetings.

At the bottom left of each screen is a box to the left of a Search button. This allows you to search for data anywhere on the Archive site, it is not limited to the Minute Books. Individual words or phrases may be sought but phrases must be included within speech marks.

The data shown on the screens for the remaining three minute books will eventually be displayed in the format used for the first book as described above.

In addition to the minute books the Society's archives include a large number of other written documents particularly correspondence sent and received. This is also being analysed and scanned and will eventually be transferred to

the Borthwick with its content made available to be read online. Information will be given to the Society members as and when this takes place.

As the Society has no written records prior to the first minute book the full history of the Society has to be determined by other means, the most readily available and therefore most valuable are newspaper and journal accounts written at the time of annual shows and other Society events. The Borthwick Institute is unable to include such documents in its archive, however there is no reason why the Society should not include such valuable information in its online archive provided that no copyright restrictions are infringed. In general it can be assumed that any document older than 100 years is free of such restrictions.

The Archive website therefore contains a section which includes research conducted by myself and others into the period before the first minute book. Access to this section is from any screen where the heading is displayed:

**HOME CONTEXT ARCHIVES PRE 1907 TIMELINE VOICES AROUND WAKEFIELD**

Use the mouse to click on PRE 1907 which will provide a screen giving a number of options: Wakefield Tulips in 18th Century, The Search for the Society's Origin, Shoemakers and Cordwainers, Members of Old, Flowers of Old, Show Reports -Pre 1907, Show Venues, Interesting Articles

Information will be progressively added to this section of the archive but you may find it interesting to click on The Search for the Society's Origin.

The Society has for many years described itself as Established in 1836. However as this page explains we are significantly older than that. I will not spoil the surprise by revealing the year but enjoy the search.

For those who don't have Internet access and would like to know more, please write to the Secretary for a brief printed summary of some of this information.

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**Kyrgyzstan Tulip Quiz answers:**

**First row, left to right: 1. *T. tetraphylla* 2. *T. daystemon* 3. *T. tarda*  
Second row, left to right: 4. *T. zenaidae* 5. *T. ostrowskiana* 6. *T. heterophylla***

# Daffodil, Snowdrop and Tulip Yearbook 2015 (RHS)

In this year's edition there is a sixteen page section on tulips, including a report by the Wisley Trials Officer on this year's tulip trial. There is a full list of the tulips nominated for the RHS Award of Garden Merit with 24 good colour photographs. A further three articles, all well illustrated, together with book reviews and show reports make this book interesting, informative and a really good read.

If you wish to obtain a copy of the yearbook, please send a cheque for £9.50 (made payable to The RHS) to John Gibson, 14 Waverley Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire. NN15 6NT. Do not forget to include your own name and address when making your request. Alternatively it is available from the website [johngibson-daffodils.co.uk](http://johngibson-daffodils.co.uk) at £9.75, payable through PayPal, there are additional options for overseas postage which makes it easier to pay for with foreign currency and send abroad. (The higher price online is to cover PayPal charges.) ISBN 9781907057601



Daffodil, Snowdrop  
and Tulip Yearbook  
2015

Daffodil, Snowdrop  
and Tulip Yearbook  
2015

How best to grow small bulbs in frames; prospects for controlling basal rot in daffodils; eccentric arrangements of petals in snowdrops - these are some of the subjects discussed in the new issue of this essential annual publication for everyone interested in daffodils, snowdrops or tulips.

Here too are the results of a major tulip trial at RHS Garden Wisley in 2015, with a gallery of pictures of the 24 new AGMs ratified by the RHS Bulb Committee, an account of astute and much sought-after snowdrop selections made by the late Margaret Owers, and a sumptuously illustrated report on the annual tulip festival at Pashley Manor, Sussex.

Many other topical articles fill these pages, as do accounts of the year's RHS awards both to people and to plants; show reports for 2014 in New Zealand and Tasmania and 2015 in the US and the UK (including the Alpine Garden Society); short notes on daffodil, snowdrop and tulip matters; recent book reviews; and three obituaries.

**FRONT COVER:** *Caerolus 'Midi'*, a new hybrid yellow everest jonquilla snowdrop from Anne Rulke (see page 42); photo: M&M Bishopp.  
**BACK COVER:** *Enigma Henry's* tulip at the Wisley trial and *North of England* tulip (see page 10); photo: Anne Rulke.  
**INSIDE:** *Enigma Henry's* tulip (see page 10); photo: Anne Rulke.  
**INSIDE:** *Enigma Henry's* tulip (see page 10); photo: Anne Rulke.  
**INSIDE:** *Enigma Henry's* tulip (see page 10); photo: Anne Rulke.

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# Mycorrhizal Fungi

Teresa Clements

For the last couple of years I have reported on the growth of tulips grown with or without mycorrhizal fungi (MF). This year I tried another cultivar for this simple test. Ten bulbs of T. 'Preludium' were grown in pots that were treated in exactly the same way except for the addition of MF to one pot. The photo shows the two sets of tulips in bloom. I would find it hard to say that one performed better than the other though the one with MF definitely flowered earlier than the one without. Is this a sign of more vigorous growth? I'm not sure. When the tops had died back I tipped the bulbs out of the pots. These bulbs are the kind that split into many small offsets after flowering and the photo shows the total yield of bulbs from the pot with MF was far greater than the other. Once again it looks like the MF had a beneficial effect on growth.

Earlier in the year Harriet Gash drew my attention to a newspaper article about MF\*, in which it was acknowledged that these fungi are recognised as being closely associated with the roots of almost all plants and that they do promote growth. However, the author said that tests had shown that adding





**Left: the group of bulbs at the top had no added MF; the group of bulbs at the bottom, with the orange label, had added MF. Above: the pot on the left has no MF, the pot on the right has added MF. Photos: Teresa Clements**

commercial products (such as Bulb Starter) to plants and bulbs in the open ground was of limited value. For a while plants in containers with added MF showed better growth but a year after planting out it was impossible to tell the difference between the two as naturally occurring MF had moved in from the soil and colonised the roots of both sets of plants.

What does this mean to us as tulip growers? Well, we could save our money and let nature take its course, particularly with bulbs grown in the open ground, where they undoubtedly do best. That said, I still think it is worth adding MF to pots and containers and if you do want to pamper your bulbs, you probably give them a head start if you add MF to the open ground too. Bulbs have a short season of rapid growth and boosting the population of naturally occurring MF could speed up the establishment of a beneficial association with the roots and lead to better growth in the time available.

In correspondence and conversations with Tulip Society members many have reported that this year the bulbs they lifted were larger than usual. This came as quite a surprise after a cool spring and a late, wet season without much sun. It was certainly the case for the bulbs I lifted both from the garden and the allotment. I had attributed their size to the magical effects of the MF but maybe we have just had an exceptional year and it was nature rather than nurturing with MF that resulted in the extra-large bulbs. All the same, I will definitely sprinkle some Bulb Starter as I plant my bulbs again in November.

*\* Ken Thomson, The Daily Telegraph, Saturday 13 August 2015.*

# On the move

## Teresa Clements

**E**arly in November Peter Royles sent me a parcel of bulbs, they are his seedlings that he has named 'Goodbye', Farewell', 'Adios' and 'Au Revoir'. Peter and Beryl are moving from a house to a bungalow and are cutting back on some of their gardening activities. Don't think that this means they are giving up gardening altogether; certainly not! He may be 92 but Peter is looking forward to creating a new flower border where there is only lawn at the moment and has plans for a brand new greenhouse.

Neither Peter nor Beryl fancy tackling the drive from Hawarden to Wakefield again and who can blame them? They have been making the journey for the Annual Show and the AGM since starting to grow English Florists' tulips in 1987. Tulips followed an interest in chrysanthemums and daffodils so they were used to travelling long distances for shows. They have turned up regularly to our events with flowers to show and delicious home-made Bara Brith as a lunchtime treat.

Peter doesn't do anything by halves; he doesn't just grow and show prize-winning tulips, he raises them from seed. He can also bake, knit, crochet and make beautiful prize-winning lace. Beryl is just as busy and has been involved in scouting and guiding from an early age. She retired as a leader aged 65 and has since joined the Trefoil Guild. How do they fit it all in?



On behalf of all of us in the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society, I extend our heartfelt thanks to Peter and Beryl for their support, companionship and generosity over many years. We will miss seeing you at the shows and at the AGM. Do stay in touch with us and tell us about your new garden. We wish you much happiness in your new home, farewell, au revoir, adios.

**Peter and Beryl Royles presented the prizes at the 176th Annual Show in 2011.**





