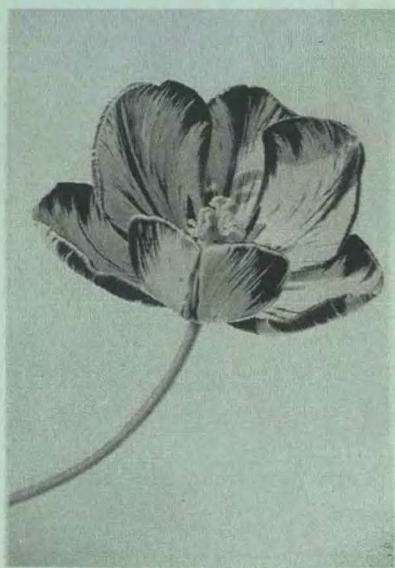


WAKEFIELD
&
NORTH OF ENGLAND
TULIP SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 1836



NEWSLETTER

No 11

AUTUMN 1999

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

(Established 1836)

OFFICERS 1998-1999

PRESIDENT The Marquess of Hartington

PATRONS V Roozen Esq

VICE PRESIDENTS Miss D B Snape, P Emmett, S Knowles, K N Ayre, T Mills, J L Akers, C Marsh, T Clark, J Ollerenshaw, Dr A K Swift, D Hopkins, Mrs J Green and Mr R Bingham.

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EDITOR Mrs A Turner

Annual Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2000 become due on the date of the Annual Show May 2000 and are for the sum of £5 per Member or £6 for Family Membership.

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The Chairman's Report

Looking back over the last year of meetings and events of our Tulip Society, many things come to mind, some of which I would like to give particular mention.

At the Annual General Meeting last October the decision was taken not to hold our usual small Dutch show, but instead to further promote our presence at the Harrogate Spring Show. We added a new class of three vases of nine tulips in three different varieties to be known as The Tulip Championship of Great Britain.

After the business, Timothy Clark, a member and author of several books, gave members attending the Annual General Meeting a very interesting and informative talk on his garden. He was also very kind in bringing and distributing seed potatoes of the Golden Wonder variety to members with an interest in growing vegetables.

Just before Christmas, we had the news that Anna Pavord had published her eagerly awaited work on the Tulip. I'm sure many of you would read the reviews in the press. No doubt some of you would find a copy in your Christmas stocking.

On April 3rd this year, one of our longest serving members, Trevor Mills, saw his dream of a Society in the Midlands come to fruition. This was the date of the inaugural meeting of The Midland Tulip Society and I am delighted to wish it every success for the future. I would also like to thank Trevor and his wife Margaret, and all the members who helped to promote our stand at the Malvern Show this year for their support.

I'm pleased to report that Harrogate Spring Show proved to be an even greater success than last year, and we had nine entries in the new Championship class. A very good effort.

At our Annual Show, the 164th, which was held at Normanton, again some of our members found the date was a little late for their best blooms. Despite the lack in quantity of blooms, we had a good show.

The new Breeder Tulips raised by Peter Royles and John Wainwright looked magnificent. Also, more new names are appearing on the Prize cards which is encouraging. I would like to thank the Judges at our Annual Show for the hard work in selecting prize winners.

The garden visit this year was to East Yorkshire with a visit in the morning to Saltmarsh Hall, an impressive private garden on the banks of the River Ouse. Unfortunately I had to miss the afternoon visit to Burton Agnes Hall but on enquiring how it went, was informed that "it was an extremely interesting garden and they put on a smashing tea."

We added one new member to our Committee this year, Anne Turner, who took over the position of Editor. The "team" have met on several occasions over the year to administer the Society and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all the help organising the different shows, talks and garden visits which we all enjoy.

Once again I thank all our members for their support and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming year.

Best wishes - Keith Eyre.

Treasurers Report

Financially it has been an uneventful year which has never the less resulted in a magnificent operating profit of £987.79. Outgoings have been relatively low with no extraordinary expenses, and income has increased in three areas.

Firstly, there has been a large rise in subscriptions, due in part to new members and partly to existing ones getting up to date. I thank you all. Secondly, income from our new book has been coming in, and we have now recouped almost two thirds of the cost of publishing. Thirdly, the sales table has provided us with a healthy income, due mainly to purchases at the various shows we attend. Once again the AGM raised a huge amount as well as being an excellent social occasion, and the Annual Show (just) kept its head above water despite the high cost of running it. We are now helped by not subsidising the Dutch Show, as prize money for our classes at Harrogate Show are paid by them. Looking at the balance sheet, we continue to receive interest on our savings and very welcome dividends from our even more welcome windfall shares in Abbey National. The value of these obviously fluctuates from year to year. For the second year we have included valuations of our stock, thereby getting a more accurate reflection of our total assets. I hope you will agree that we end the year in good heart. It only remains for me to thank all our members who give raffle prizes, food and especially time and effort to make the Society as successful as it is. This is no means less true for being said each year. A personal thank you goes to all who have helped me through the year. Best wishes to you all. Carole

Editorial

ANNE TURNER

This is my first Newsletter and I would like to thank everyone who sent me articles, (but I need more) I have enjoyed the process so far and was sorry that it was not printed and sent out before the AGM on October 2nd, this was partly due to reports and articles being received late.

To ensure that this situation does not happen next year will you please send anything to be included in the Newsletter to me before 31st August 2000, this will then give me and the printers enough time to publish for the AGM.

Please continue to send me anything for inclusion in the Newsletter, I am sure that during the long winter months when all your bulbs are set, you can find time to either research archives or write an article for inclusion in the 2000 edition.

I would also ask that if any of you have ideas for future inclusions or would like to see something different in the Newsletter please contact me, I feel that with all the new technology available in PC's now, a bigger variety could be included. I am very fortunate that I have all the facilities of the Museum at my disposal, including experts in editing Journals etc, so most things should now be possible.

As the Society now has a large number of Female Members I should like to receive their input and ideas.

Condensed Minutes of AGM 4 October 1998

Held at Wrenthorpe Village Hall, Wrenthorpe, Wakefield

The Chairman welcomed the approximately 60 members present and the Secretary gave apologies of those unable to attend.

The condensed minutes from 1997 AGM had been published and P Royles proposed and S Robertson seconded that they be taken as read, this was carried.

Secretary's report She apologised for the Sunday date of the meeting, it had been unavoidable. It had been a very tulip centred year. There had been two important sales, Christies had sold a Turkish tulip album, described as unique and Sotherbys had held a sale of tulip paintings in Holland, mainly Dutch artists and some French.

She and James had put on a display of species tulips at Gateshead Show and had been grateful for much help from members and local members. They had visited the Keukenhof and the Hortus Bulborum in Holland and were pleased to see the breeder tulips at the Hortus looking well. Harrogate Show and Malvern Show had had society stands manned by members and the tulip show at Harrogate was well supported.

She thanked all the members for their help and support and made a plea to members to seriously consider replacing her sometime soon.

The Treasurer presented her report. Accounts were in the Newsletter, she invited questions. She mentioned the cost of replacing the Albert Tear Memorial of £175. Terry Mitchell moved and Ron Crabtree seconded that the accounts be accepted and this was carried.

Election of Officers

Bob Bingham was proposed as Vice President by the committee and accepted.

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were willing to stand again, James Akers was retiring as Editor. Anne Turner was nominated as Editor by Peter Turner, seconded by James Akers, carried.

Committee

James Akers agreed to serve for two years. Carole Gude proposed that we re-elect Malcolm Hainsworth and John Wainwright who were due to retire. Carried.

Shows and Show Dates

A discussion was initiated on the proposal that we discontinue the Dutch Show at Wrenthorpe and replace it with the Tulip Show at Harrogate Spring Show. There was support for retaining the Wrenthorpe Show, Harrogate being very early. Against was the attendance at Wrenthorpe always very poor, Harrogate has 50,000 plus, all prize money is provided. Malvern Show

would be a well timed show for English Florist. After a long discussion a vote was taken : For Harrogate 20 Against 12

We would review the situation at the 1999 AGM. A new class, the Championship of Great Britain for three vases of 9 tulips put forward. James Akers suggested we write to Malvern (RHS) to have extra tulip classes.

RHS Tulip Competition

Members encouraged to show at this poorly supported show.

The Annual Show

Suggested we book Outwood Memorial Hall. Date 15 May 1999 proposed by Keith Eyre, carried with one exception.

Dudmaston

James Akers proposed that we discontinue this for the present in order to have the flowers available in Wakefield the following day for judging practice or discussion. There was good support for the idea of garden visits to see members' tulips in growth.

Date of AGM 1999 - 2 October 1999

Any other business

John Gibson wished to record his appreciation for James' effort as editor. A round of applause was the response from members.

John Wainwright discussed need to keep standards correct. Peter Royles said perfect tulip had yet to be raised, don't be too hard. We need a system to preserve stocks. James Akers proposed that "no Florist tulip be named unless approved by the Society", how we do it is open for discussion. Seconded by Peter Royles,

John Wainwright brought to attention an error in the book p.27 sowing the seed, it should be 8-10 weeks not days.

The business meeting then closed and members had tea and later enjoyed a talk by the celebrated writer on Florist Flowers by Timothy Clark.

From Gardeners Chronicle 1851..

In an old work, called The Curious and Profitable Gardener, by John Coward, there occurs the following passage; - Take the plaster of old walls, wherein is a great deal of lime, and powder it very fine ; mix this with drift sand, or such sand as is sharp, and found on the sea shore; to this add of the water that runs from dunghill; mix these as well as possible, and put over the surface of the bed, a little before you plant your breeding or plain tulips, and twill make them break into fine stripes to a wonder, as is related to me by a gentleman of great honour, who has proved it, as he observes for five or six years. I have not at present had an opportunity of trying this plan; but if successful, it will certainly be better than to follow the recommendation of Hogg. J.J.C. Stoke Holy Cross.

Peter Turner

Obituary

Arthur Haywood 20/10/98

I had the pleasure to know Arthur over 40 years. We first met when Arthur took an allotment at Wentworth Terrace Allotments, Altofts, Normanton, and we remained friends.

Our late Chairman John Hardman and I talked Arthur into growing tulips, he was very successful as a showman. His best years were 1975 when he won the Gold Medal with a fantastic vase of 18 Menton, some of the best flowers ever shown in the Tulip Shows.

But Arthur's main strength was a background worker; he was always there to help filling vases, setting up tables, selling raffle tickets and helping to clear away after shows and meetings.

Quiet unassuming man, as strong as a rock. The Church, Tulip Society, I, and hundreds of others have lost a dear friend and worker; he will be sadly missed.

Our sympathy goes to Margaret and sons Mark and Tim.

A gentleman in all ways.

Bill Tear.

Photograph also supplied by Bill Tear.



The birth of a new Tulip Society

Saturday 3rd April 1999 turned out to be a pleasurable day. Six keen enthusiastic growers came to the Railway Club, Pleck, Walsall, with apologies from three others, Philip Fryer travelling quite a distance to the meeting by public transport - what dedication!!

It was agreed to call the new society The Midland Tulip Society, this being the same as one formed in Derby in 1856 - where the late Tom Storer was in attendance.

We will be taking advantage of all the shows in the Midlands with the intention of educating the public to the potential of the flower.

The actual venues will be notified to the members in the spring of each year.

Finance will be gained from the sales table, with a starting sum of £344 obtained from the sale of breeder tulips sold in 1997.

Great merriment was expressed by the company present when it was proposed to hold an annual get together, to be known as a Feast with an after dinner speaker.

This year Jean Andrews from Shrewley, nr Warwick has kindly consented to give us a talk in the afternoon in the lecture theatre on the Travels of Charles Maries - a Victorian Plant Hunter.

The one thing that sticks in my mind that arose out of the meeting was a chance remark on my part when I stated that we should aim to take the tulip into the 21st Century. Member Christopher Toogood felt that the dutch tulips that he had seen came up to the standard of the English Florist Tulip and it made me wonder does one have to breed from Old English stock to obtain new cultivars?

After much thought and realising that commercialism brings about much research, there are many questions to be asked about our hobby.

1. Still to be proved - is it possible to revert a broken tulip back to the breeder state?
2. Why some cultivars break better than others?
3. In this day and age why cannot we bulk up stocks more quickly?
4. Can bulbs be stored indefinitely, i.e. bulb banks?

I am sure there are many more questions to be solved that would be advantageous to the English Tulip grower.

Trevor Mills

From Tameside Reporter May 6, 1899.

Flowers: A very pretty sight may, just now, be witnessed in Tame Valley, Dukinfield.

We refer to the tulips which are now in full bloom at the late Mr Christian Koch's Riner and Tower Mills. At the end of the latter fabric, the display is truly beautiful, and the neatly laid out plots of land show clusters of Variegated flowers to advantage.

J Ollerenshaw.

The Garden Visit 1999

This year's garden visit took in two gardens north of the Humber. Both serve country houses, but have very different characters. What is always interesting on our garden visits is the mix of gardening types that the Society attracts, all with their own views on the visit. We had the "plant collectors" along with us (looking for something they haven't got), the broad brush "low maintenance" gardeners (looking for solutions), the single-species fanatics (who walk past 90% of the plants without even noticing), the "fashionable" gardeners (looking for something new) and the "style" gardeners (I'm in with the Style Police myself, as a landscape architect). The two gardens chosen satisfied almost everyone, although they contrasted in style, as did the weather which was showery in the morning, and sunny in the afternoon.

The first visit was to Saltmarsh Hall. The Bean family have owned the house for the past 25 years, and have built on the existing structure of the 18th Century gardens. Aptly named, the Hall is within a breath of the Humber. The estuary must be very windy at some times of year, so much of the gardens are sheltered by hedges, walls and avenues of trees. Overall, this is a garden which is hard to take in as a whole, but there are always surprises to encounter on turning a corner or passing through an archway.

A high-summer garden, planted with classic roses, nepeta (catmint) and silver-leaved pears retains its feeling of structure in the off-seasons, with architectural clipped yews, curved walls and a pond. Modern plantings of slightly tender shrubs (ceanothus, cistus and lavatera) exploit the sheltered location. Two beautiful *Magnolia wilsonii* were bearing their last blooms of the season during our visit. Immediately behind the house, were two very intimate and structured gardens which would look good all year and which the owners say benefit from evening sunshine.

The walled kitchen garden also has magnolias, and peach and apricot trees. Part is kept as a potager garden, part has a swimming pool and tennis courts. A colour theme in fresh whites and yellows has been introduced to unite the elements of this garden, leavened by the use of groups of plants with strong leaf shapes, like *Paeonia mlokosewitschii* and *Acanthus*. These blended surprisingly well with the strong colours and shapes of the produce grown in the potager.

Colour themes also worked well along the drives and the spaces which link compartments of the gardens. I liked the restrained mixing of grey and green leaved shrubs, with variegation used to best effect by limiting it to a small proportion of the whole bed. Of course, restraint is helped by having plenty of space to play with! There were also many plantings of young trees, mostly of good forms of native types, to replace the elms the garden has lost, and these helped to integrate the garden into the surrounding farmland.

What I found striking about the garden, was how much can be achieved using climbers and wall shrubs with very simple underplanting, or in some places no herbaceous planting at all. I had the feeling that the garden would seem well clothed even in winter, and that the real high spots of each season were provided by favourite shrubs and classic roses, each planted where it would perform best. This is the kind of garden which I like best, with something for every

season based around a solid structure. There was nothing to shock, and I think you could live comfortably with a garden like this.

The second garden, which we visited in the afternoon, was Burton Agnes Hall Gardens. The hall is set in parkland, with the obligatory terrace garden overlooking a formal lawn with a raised pool and carp. The set piece of the Hall is the large walled garden. A playful theme runs through the garden, with a maze, a jungle and outdoor games boards, one reason for its popularity with visitors from the nearby coastal resorts. A high spot for Rosie, who was nearly two, was the extensive planting of alpine strawberries (edible) and the occasional small sculptures and fountains, including an elephant in the jungle.

The large potager garden is flanked by two traditional borders, one set against a wall. The variety of different herbaceous plants which have been used is breathtaking, in fact I bought a plant list as we left as there were some varieties of geranium and veronica that I noted and would like to try at home. It takes discipline to group this kind of collection so as to make the most of each plant, and in some places all restraint had been abandoned so that roses flopped over paths and clematis infiltrated other climbers, but this just increased the charm of the borders. The maze and jungle were pure fun, the jungle being stocked with spiky yucca, tall grasses, bamboos and other plants whose growth seems too luxuriant for an English garden, like big-leaved rhubarbs and peltiphyllums. The flowering plants were chosen for their bright colours or exotic form. The shocking colours of rudbeckia and osteospermums looked very much at home among the foliage, as did some plants I expected to see in the potager, like asparagus and cardoon.

The garden has three "collections", which focuses the mind on the qualities of the plants. The scented garden was almost overpowering, with some of the best-scented roses being in bloom, and the warmth bringing out the scent of the quieter herbs. The thyme garden was also fragrant and quietly busy with bees. The campanula garden was a refreshing change, with just one genera exhibited together in a variety of forms of troughs and beds within paving. This was much more effective than the usual rockery treatment that bell-flowers get. I expect that in the off-season this little garden is rather subdued, but use of an arbour as a central feature lends it some purpose.

The last section of the garden is split into seven sections, six with their own colour scheme, laid out around a central garden with a pool, an outdoor chess board and topiary chess pieces. The colour gardens are all right in small doses! Each garden has its outstanding plants, and because they are tied together by a unifying colour theme, a jumble of all kinds of plants which wouldn't normally work together looks effective. The two plants which really stood out for me were an *Eryngium* in the blue garden called *Formcett Ultra*, which was electric blue from flower to leaf to stem and horridly spiky, and a poppy, *Papaver orientalis Allegro* in an astonishing apricot-orange on soft grey foliage. It occurs to me that these two would work well together as a plant association, if extreme contrast was what you were aiming for!

Despite the patchy weather, it was a very successful visit overall, and thanks are due to Barbara Pickering and friends for organizing such a thought-provoking pair of visits.

Sarah Wainwright.

Harrogate Show Results 1999

Class 1 Tulip Championship of Great Britain (3 vases of 9 tulips, 3 different varieties)

1st Derek Williams: Olympic Flame, Pink Impression, Golden Oxford.

2nd Mr & Mrs King: Golden Apeldoorn, Oxford, Apeldoorn Elite.

3rd Chris Bone: Apeldoorn, Pink Impression, Queen Wilhelmina:

Class 2 9 Tulips - One Variety

1st Mr & Mrs King: Oxford

2nd Richard Smales: Queen Wilhelmina

3rd Barbara Pickering: Attila

Class 3 3 Lily-flowered Tulips one variety

1st Malcolm Hainsworth: Maytime

2nd Caroline Wright: Maytime

3rd Anne Smales: Queen of Sheba

Class 4 No entries

Class 5 3 Double-flowered Tulips one variety

1st Linda Chapman: Mount Tacoma

2nd Mike Brook: May Wonder

3rd Harry Fogg: Angelique

Class 6 3 Yellow-flowered Tulips one variety

1st Derek Williams: Golden Oxford

2nd Anne Turner: Golden Parade

3rd Ken Bacon: Daydream

Class 7 3 White-flowered Tulips one variety

1st Peter Turner: Diana

2nd Mike Brook: White Dream

3rd Anne Turner: Purissima

Class 8 3 Pink or Red-flowered Tulips one variety

1st Derek Williams: Pink Impression

2nd Barbara Pickering: Vivex

3rd Mr & Mrs King: Oxford

- Class 9 3 Tulips any other Colour one variety**
 1st Mr & Mrs King: Apeldoorn Elite
 2nd Mrs M Cowie: Beauty of Apeldoorn
 3rd Peter Turner: Purple Star
- Class 10 5 Kaufmannia, Gregii or Fosteriana Cultivars**
 1st Peter Turner: Candela
 2nd Mr & Mrs King: Oriental Beauty
 3rd Peter Turner: Summit
- Class 11 3 Tulips of any colour - entries restricted to anyone who Has not won a first prize at Harrogate Tulip Show**
 1st Barbara Pickering: Vivex
 2nd Tom Depledge: Vivex
 3rd Caroline Wright: Sweetheart
- Class 12 A bowl or pan of species Tulips containing Not less than five bulbs**
 1st Harry Fogg: T. Batalina "Bright Gem"
 2nd Jonathon Mitchell: T. Wilsoniana
 3rd Carole Parker: T. Uruniensis

Judge: K N Eyre, South Cave.

A slug's life



Dec. 11th 1998...
 "Hoyup Hepsabah haas tha doin?"
 "Alreight Wally. Aw reckon h'is
 plantin them tulip roots aheen."
 "Eeah! aw think hi weeyts u'til its
 daa'k an snowin eeivri yeer."
 "Eeah! appen thi'av ta bi planted
 bi moon leight"

Aug. 11th 1998...
 "Hoyup Wally."
 "Alreight. Hepsabah. Well thas
 seen it all nah. Diggin up bi moon
 shade!"

sent by John Wainwright

Report of the 164th Annual Show

On arrival at the Normanton Community Centre we were met with tales of woe, several exhibitors reported attacks of Tulip Fire which was a contributory factor in the lower number of entries this year, Even more worrying was Fred Jacksons disclosure that his bulbs had been vandalised with weed killer. That is something that we can do without.

The Dutch section entries were down in number and many blooms showed sign of weather damage. The John Hardman Memorial Class was won by Peter Turner with a vase of Menton, second was Fred Jackson with a vase of Orange Sun, the two vases made a nice contrast.. In Class 2 Peter Turner took First and second. Mrs Sylvia Maddens Black Parrot with its delightful velvet sheen was first in class 3 followed by another vase of Menton from Peter Turner, Mrs Pat Kings Douglas Bader completed the card winners in this class.

Class 4 which calls for a vase of three Tulips had fifteen exhibits and no fewer than thirteen different varieties including a very attractive Cordell Hull which did not get amongst the cards. First was Bob Bingham repeating last years success with Elegant Lady, second was another nice orange variety, Orange Favourite from Steve Thompson, third was Don Brears with Queen of the Night which was the nearest Black Tulip in the show. Peter Turner also won The F R Hunter Cup for the most points in classes 2-4, and Sylvia Maddens took The Peter Emmett Cup for the best bloom in classes 1-4.

There were no entries in the classes for vases of English Tulips.

The open classes were also less well supported than of late but the blooms that were staged gave us plenty to discuss. Mrs Beryl Royles magnificent entry in the class for a stand of twelve breeders contained a cherry red bizarre numbered R59 which collected the overall Premier award and that of best breeder. Mrs Royles exhibits are a recorders dream as they are all under code numbers, much easier to record than a lot of named varieties. The Needham Memorial Cup only attracted one entry which was staged by Mrs Sarah Wainwright, amongst her twelve blooms was Sir Joseph Paxton which the judges decided was the Premier Feather in the show. There were no entries in classes ten or eleven,

The G S Hunter Memorial Cup was also won by Mrs Royle with Ron Crabtree the runner up. Mrs Wainwright won the Stages Cup with Royal Sovereign, Lord Frederick Cavendish and a seedling. Class 14 for a pan of three breeders was won by Mrs Royle with two seedlings and Juliet, other creditable exhibits were staged by Mrs Judy Baker and Ron Crabtree. Class 15 had eight entries containing fifteen different varieties, the honours went to Mrs Wainwright for her Bessie and James Wild, James Akers was second and Mrs Baker third. Mrs Wainwright won class 16 with Feathered forms of James Wild and Columbine, there was one other entry in this class that was disqualified because one of the blooms was a Flame. The very experienced exhibitor who staged it laughed it of by telling the judges that he was only testing them, Mrs Royle continued her dominance with Breeders by winning Class 17, Mrs Baker and Mrs Barbara Pickering took the other two places and kept the men out. Mrs Wainwrights Sir Joseph Paxton Flame won first prize in Class 18 and also the Cochrane Cults vase for the

best bloom in classes 17-19. James Akers Lord Stanley was second and Mrs Pickering was third. Of the nine entries in class 19 Trevor Mills Lord Cavendish was a good winner closely followed by Chris Bones James Wild and James Akers Columbine. This class contained a Royal Sovereign which at first sight looked to be the best in the class, unfortunately it only had two stamens, Mrs Royle completed her rout of Seedling and Breeder classes by winning both class 20 and 21 and added the Seedling Cup to her Trophy shelf.

The Novice section had some very creditable exhibits including Mrs Pickering's Mabel which was the best Flame in the show, the Dudmaston Plate for the Premier bloom in the Novice section was collected by John Snocken with his Mabel Breeder. Terry Mitchell was awarded the Gina Roozen Cup for his three Breeders, James Wild, Gloria and Talisman. Mrs Pickering also won the Brook Silver Challenge Cup and a Glass Goblet for most points in this section.

In the extra open classes Mrs Pickering's Talisman was the best of eight entries in class 27. Jonathon Mitchell was second with Gloria and that earned him the Elizabeth Smith Silver Medal for being the youngest exhibitor under 18 years of age. Mrs Pickering's Dr Hardy Flame was the only entry in class 28. That exhibit and her first prize in class 27 won her the S Knowles Cup and the Glass Goblet for the most points in the section. Chris Bones' James Wild Feathered was the only entry in class 29.

Mrs Pickering's success at the show showed that she will be capable of holding her own when she graduates to the Open Classes. We look forward to seeing her continue her prize winning there.

John N Gibson

An article from a Malaysian Newspaper by Hanizah Hashim Blooming Success.

Universiti Putra Malaysia lecturer in floriculture Dr Thohirah Lee Abdullah displays a bouquet of home-grown tulips being developed for the commercial market.

Research and development using genetic engineering and plant biotechnology techniques will develop tulip bulbs that can be grown in tropical weather conditions in the future.

Large scale commercial growing of tulips in Malaysia for the domestic market and for export would cater for the growing demand for the cut flowers and potted plants.

Research and development on the tulip for commercial cultivation is being carried out by researchers in collaboration with Bunga Mekar Sdn Bhd in Bidor, Perak.

Bunga Mekar has been cultivating tulip bulbs imported from the Netherlands for the domestic market since 1993. The Netherlands is the centre for the world tulip production.

Thohirah said UPM's research on the "Cassini" tulip which began last year had developed production procedures that enabled the plants to be grown in the lowlands.

"In Malaysia, tulip pot plant or cut flower production is possible through the use of suitable cultivars (seed bulbs) and a precise forcing technique"

"Temperature is by far the most important environmental factor that regulates the development of the tulip bulb while growth and flowering characteristics are influenced by different day and night temperatures," she said.

The study under the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment also hoped to develop heat tolerant tulips.

Other qualities being studied include post-harvest treatment for longer shelf life of cut flowers and shorter stem length for potted plants to prevent easy breakage.

The newly developed tulip plants adapted for the local environment could be planted in shade, low-lying areas as bedding plants for landscaping and in home gardens.

Other flowering bulbs considered for future R&D include the hyacinth, liliium and iris.

Bunga Mekar director Halim Ismail said the domestic demand for tulips amounted to RM150,000 annually while there was a ready market for the blooms in Singapore, Thailand and Japan.

Due to its seasonal nature, fresh-cut tulip flowers which bloom once a year, are being sold at RM8 per bloom at florists shop and can even fetch up to RM20 (£5) per bloom during Valentine's day. Tulips, being as much prized in Malaysia as Orchids are here.

Don Brears.

Opening a new Vista

Since the forming of the Midland Tulip Society it has been an education in respect of species tulips.

Maybe it is narrow-mindedness on my part only having sympathy towards the English Tulip and not giving a thought to other cultivars.

True I have the species tulip *Sylvestris* growing in my garden but it has been bought to my notice there are others of equal merit.

I started growing from seed the tulip *Sprengeri* a late flowering specie tulip, due to seeing the bulb listed in a catalogue priced at £3.90 per bulb.

Obtaining seed from Chiltern Seeds of Cumbria, the plant has appeared on the Secretaries table at the main show Normanton purchased from a garden centre by Barbara Pickering.

Whilst meeting fellow growers I was introduced to a book called 'The Seed Search' compiled and edited by Karen Platt which lists 54 different varieties of tulip.

This book I am sure could be obtained from your local Library, also can be purchased direct from Karen Platt, 35 Longfield Road, Crooker, Sheffield, S10 1QW. Priced £10.99 plus postage £1.75.

Sowing in November after soaking the seed in water, waiting for them to fall to the bottom of the glass, will help for better germination.

Placing in a seed tray in seed compost with a good covering and placed in a garden frame, The frame only closed up when the weather is severe.

You will find they will germinate in April when the early tulips are in bloom, or when the temperature rises.

Shake out the tray when the foliage has died down and you will find that the majority of the small bulbs formed will be on the bottom of the compost ready for picking and storing to the following season.

Trevor Mills.

Obituary

Mr J Haigh, the subject of the following remarks, was born at Ashton, where he resided the greater part of his life. He was devotedly attached to horticultural pursuits, and for half a century gave his leisure hours to the pleasure of the flower garden. His favourite flower, and that which he cultivated with the greatest success, was the Tulip.

He was well known through life as an amicable, quiet, and respectable man; and though an old florist, he was not a prejudiced one, but always open to conviction, and ready to embrace every movement that had for its object the true interests of floriculture. His valuable collection, which was sold by auction after his death, sufficiently proves that he had not only not clung to the old and for ever discarded kinds, but he had also cautiously and judiciously introduced into his bed, many of the new and valuable varieties. It may be reasonably supposed that one who had so long and ardently pursued any favourite employment, would leave some lasting proof of the sincerity of his pleasures. And of these there remains a few monuments, which will be found in the choicest collections, when many a high sounding name will be entirely forgotten. It is true he did not foist upon the public many worthless varieties, as is too generally the case with the raisers of the present day. His custom was to discard all the self's that failed in either of the two essential properties, namely form and purity; and to this general rule may be ascribed the small amount of seedlings which bear his name. His Lady Grey, a feathered rose, and Violet Amiable, a feathered bybloemen, will long be found in the most valuable collections, and on the best stages in the kingdom. He was a particular friend of the late James Walker, Esq., of Harper House, Ashton, and joint proprietor with him in the purchase of the justly celebrated Buckley's Seedlings. His death, which was occasioned by a severe attack of English cholera, happened on the 12th of August 1846, in the 68th year of his age; and his remains were interred in the parish church of Ashton under Lyne.

P B Turner

Library

The Library currently consists of the following books. You are welcome to borrow any of them.

The Tulip by *Sir Daniel Hall*. The old standard work on the tulip since 1928.

The Genus Tulipa by *Sir Daniel Hall*. Extensive work on species tulips. 1940.

The Tulip by *Anna Pavord*. Anna's beautiful labour of love. 1999.

Tulipomania by *Wilfred Blunt*. A small study of the Dutch phenomenon. 1950.

Tulips by *Rev. Joseph Jacobs*. One of the present day gardening series. 1912.

Florists, Flowers and Societies by *Ruth Duthie*. Includes English Florist Tulips. 1988.

Tulip Forcing by *J. A. Cusdin*. A curious little book about commercial raising of cut flowers. 1953.

Tulips by *Ann Bonar*. A small modern guide to cultivation. 1992.

The Book of Tulips by *Tom Lodewijk*. A general book with excellent illustrations. 1978.

Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31st July 1999

RECEIPTS	1999	1998	PAYMENTS	1999	1998
Subs/Donations	814.00	680.50	Insurance	106.00	102.00
Income - New Book	219.50	710.00	Cost of New Book		1508.74
Old Booklets	8.00	10.00	Postage	205.81	243.75
			News Letter	150.00	155.00
			Printing/Stationery	43.48	106.99
Bulb Distribution	0.00	21.72	Bulb Distribution	9.90	
Sales Table Receipts	603.43	486.60	Sales Table Purchases	259.97	270.70
Profit AGM	119.33	107.73	Loss Main Show		59.85
Profit Main Show	4.94		Loss Main Show		52.17
Garden Visit	116.00	114.00	Garden Visit	117.25	114.00
Malvern/Gateshead	25.00	75.00	Engraving Trophies		55.00
Donation	75.75	500.00	Polden Plant Cultures	105.75	470.00
			Cost of new cup		174.00
Operating Loss		606.65			
Operating Profit				987.79	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1985.95</u>	<u>3312.20</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1985.95</u>	<u>3312.20</u>

Balance Sheet

Current acc @ 1.8.98	874.95	247.02	Current acc.@ 4.8.99	362.74	874.95
Savings acc	240.24	485.39	Savings acc	242.94	240.24
Interest	2.70	4.85			
Building Soc	695.89	1613.08	Building Soc	2249.70	695.89
Interest	22.38	40.06			
Abbey National	991.46	778.75	Abbey National Shares	949.63	991.46
Dividends	31.43	27.33			
Change in share value	-41.83	212.71			
Operating Profit/Loss	987.79	-606.65			
Stock valuation at cost			Stock valuation at cost		
Sales Table	148.00		Sales Table	236.00	148.00
Society Booklet	957.58		Society Booklet	791.70	957.58
				210@3.77	
Stock change in value					
Sales Table	88.00	148.00			
Society Booklet	-165.88	957.58			
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>4832.71</u>	<u>3908.12</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>4832.71</u>	<u>3908.12</u>

AGM 3 October 1998

	1998	1997		1998	1997
Raffle	49.40	70.00	Hall Hire	23.85	22.50
Refreshments	67.50	78.00	Food Costs	18.00	25.00
Plant sales	50.95	17.00	Crockery Hire	24.67	12.00
Plant Raffle	18.00				
Bulb Competition		2.23			
			Profit	119.33	107.73
TOTAL	185.85	167.23	TOTAL	185.85	167.23

ENGLISH SHOW 15 May 1999

	1999	1998		1999	1998
Raffle	96.00	66.00	Hall Hire	13.50	42.40
Donations			Goblets	130.50	119.00
Plant Sales	15.50	36.60	Flowers	8.00	
Sale of Blooms	10.50	21.00	Gratuities		10.00
Profit on Food	125.55	72.03			
Loss		52.17	Profit	4.94	
TOTAL	247.55	247.80	TOTAL	247.55	247.80