

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND

# TULIP SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NO 28 AUTUMN 2016



Established 1836

# WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

## OFFICERS 2016-2017

**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, 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** Mr Malcolm Hainsworth

**VICE CHAIRMAN** Mr Chris Gill

**HON SECRETARY** Mrs T Clements

**HON TREASURER** Mr Jason Clements

**COMMITTEE** Mrs W M Akers, Ms S Brooks, 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: editor@tulipsociety.co.uk

**SOCIETY WEBSITE** [www.tulipsociety.co.uk](http://www.tulipsociety.co.uk)

*Annual Subscriptions – Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2017 become due on the date of the Annual Show in May 2017 and are for the sum of £5 per Member or £6 for Family Membership.*

# CONTENTS

## **Society Business**

|                      |                    |    |
|----------------------|--------------------|----|
| Chair's Report       | Malcolm Hainsworth | 2  |
| Secretary's Report   | Teresa Clements    | 5  |
| Treasurer's Report   | Jason Clements     | 8  |
| Dates for your Diary |                    | 10 |
| Minutes of AGM       |                    | 11 |

## **Shows and Results**

|  |                 |    |
|--|-----------------|----|
| 181st Annual Show Report                   | Teresa Clements | 16 |
| 181st Annual Show Results                  |                 | 22 |
| The Small Show Report                      | Teresa Clements | 28 |
| The Small Show Results                     |                 | 30 |
| RHS Late Daffodil<br>and Tulip Competition | Teresa Clements | 32 |
| The Lentetuin Show                         | Teresa Clements | 34 |

## **Home and Abroad**

|   |                  |    |
|---|------------------|----|
| Garden Visit:<br>Sleightholmedale Lodge | Linda Chapman    | 37 |
| The Istanbul<br>Tulip Foundation        | Frazer Henderson | 41 |
| Garden Visit:<br>Ellerker House         | Harriet Gash     | 42 |

## **Arts and Culture**

|                            |                  |    |
|----------------------------|------------------|----|
| Lost painting rediscovered | Teresa Clements  | 44 |
| Visiting Sweden            | Tonnvane Wiswell | 46 |
| Book reviews               | Frazer Henderson | 48 |

## **Obituaries**

|              |             |    |
|--------------|-------------|----|
| Peter Royles | James Akers | 50 |
| Bob Taylor   | Chris Gill  | 52 |

# Chair's Report

## Malcolm Hainsworth

Although we have been saddened by the loss of Peter Royles and Bob Taylor, both as loyal, keen and characterful members as anyone could wish for, we have had a year that is a tribute to them. The Society has attracted an active showing membership that is almost certainly greater than any in its history. Much is owed to members past and present and to our Secretary and her Committee and those who have worked so hard to support our aims. It is both pleasing and reassuring to see our stalwarts augmented by newer volunteers.

My fragmentary notes over part of the year record a fierce hailstorm on Easter Sunday and another two days later which drove me from the plot. Frequent further falls of hail confirmed the utility of scaffold netting as protection. Erecting this was one of the few sensible decisions of the year. I'd made beds of a size to match the cover the nets provide. (I've realised, just now, that the beds I've just planted do not have the correct dimensions.) About a fortnight later on 13th April the growth on the bed was well up and groundkeepers elsewhere had buds on 2" stems. I concluded that the show for me would be a "fridge job". I was wrong.

In mid-April I watched a moving performance of 'The Smoke of Home', a play written by two Czechs confined in the Theresienstadt Ghetto. Set in Marburg castle after the 30 Years War it tells the story of a small group of forgotten prisoners who attempt to resist despair by sharing thoughts of home. The play was appropriately staged in Clifford's Tower on a bitterly cold night. I felt for the student actors who wore little and lay on the stone floor. It was excruciating to watch.

As a result of the chill I caught I was in a poor state by Showtime. I am grateful for the tender consideration of members who relieved me of my responsibilities and made the show a more memorable occasion. I will skim over my failure to attend the second show. From what I've heard it was especially valued by those who did attend. It offers a more relaxed environment to examine and assess the blooms. The Varieties Table is now firmly established and I expect it to become indispensable as an aid to identifying our stocks.

I have shown *Tulipa sprengeri* in the past and was very proud of my collection which originated in Christopher Lloyd's garden. In June Linda Chapman arranged an ad hoc visit to Sleightholmedale to see the *sprengeri* there, thousands of them. I hope there is a picture of them in this newsletter as they

were as lovely as any flowers I have seen. It was a memorable outing and could become, for those who wish, as regular a visit as that to Cattal to see the *T. sylvestris*. Some of us visited the ancient church at Kirkdale with its remarkable pre-Conquest sun dial whilst our speleologist Treasurer explored the equally famous Kirkdale Cave. The main garden visit to Ellerker House was additionally delightful.

**The largest pumpkin I've ever seen, grown by Tim Lever and wonderfully dressed for Hallowe'en by Liz Thorn. Photo: Liz Thorn**



Our AGM was well attended. Set up and supported by a superb team we are guaranteed a pleasant afternoon. Our most recently appointed Vice-President, Jan Pennings, gave us a comprehensive and fascinating account of the origins and operations of the Keukenhof garden. Many members have seen and enjoyed it and Jan will have deepened their appreciation. Even I was tempted to make a visit.

Chris Gill has been appointed as Vice-Chair of the Society and we all look forward with confidence to his taking over as Chair next year. He has already shown that he has all the abilities the Society needs. Not only is he an excellent grower and shower but he also rides a superb motor cycle. We are fortunate that he has accepted this responsibility.

I had an unspectacular year on the plot, seeds from French and American friends did pretty well. ‘Fortex’, a climbing bean, was delicious and a squash ‘North Georgia Candy Roaster’ has done reasonably well. It’s not up to the standard of ‘Galeuse d’Essines’ but it’s worth a try. Nothing I do cannot be outdone by Tim Lever, who carried into the AGM, at great personal risk, the largest pumpkin\* I’ve actually seen.

**“For once I have planted almost all my bulbs well before Christmas...”**

I am relieved that for once I have planted almost all my bulbs well before Christmas. A few odds and sods remain; they are mainly unlabelled groundkeepers or ones with small signs of damage or disease. Sometimes they recover in my ‘sick bay’. I have planted three short rows of all the three, pretty distinct, sorts of Paxton we have. I need to identify them clearly and, with the help of Keith and James, try to establish their history.

I’m looking forward to my seedlings progressing. They have not benefited from the successful techniques devised by John Wainwright but I’m keen to see them bloom. Follow John’s advice and you will succeed.

Many years ago, the Society reprinted Barr’s ‘The English Tulip And Its History’, it is well worth reading. It offers hope (and I certainly need that). Of ‘James Wild’ it says it is “worthwhile growing a lot to get a good one”. It certainly is and the not so good ones are pleasing enough in a vase. A contributor, J W Bentley, expresses our feelings perfectly, “In short, it may be said that it is the bewitching combination of anticipation, disappointment and unexpected delights which make tulip-growing so fascinating to its votaries.”

\* Liz Thorn managed to get the pumpkin home and dressed it for Hallowe’en.

# Secretary's Report

**Teresa Clements**

**I**t was a sad start to the year, Bob Taylor died at the very end of 2015 and several members of the tulip society went to his funeral in that dark time between Christmas and New Year. Bob had asked that those attending his funeral should wear silly hats, and we did. There were some rum characters, pirates and dodgy types with strange creatures nesting on their heads, Bob would have loved it. It was a tribute to him that so many took his wish seriously and typical of him that even at this last farewell he would try to lighten the mood and make us smile. He will be much missed.

When giving talks about the Society I often refer to the old minute books in the Society's archive in which there are regular complaints about the weather. (You can look online [wnets.org.uk](http://wnets.org.uk)) Now, I am doing the same thing. Here in Yorkshire the rain fell in torrents at Christmas and many areas were flooded. As if that wasn't enough for the poor tulip bulbs, the mild, wet winter, which was no good for root growth, was followed by a long, cool, dull spring, which was no good for leaf, stem and flower growth. Alas, it wasn't a good year for tulips but these conditions were perfect for the proliferation of slugs and they munched their way through a large number of my soggy bulbs.

Thankfully, not everyone suffered the same conditions and on 14th May we had a fantastic show. It was an absolute delight to see the number of exhibitors, surely a record at 52. The show bench filled up with a fabulous display of tulips, what an achievement, well done to all who brought their flowers to show. Well done also to those who have so generously contributed bulbs for redistribution over the last few years to build up some good collections amongst growers throughout the country and overseas in Sweden and the Netherlands.

The bulb distribution is one of the Society's most impor-

**Slugs feasted on many of my bulbs this year. Photo: Teresa Clements**





**Left: *tulipa* Deryn Roberts, bred by Peter Royles. Right: the bloom's namesake, Peter's grandson Deryn. Photos: John Wainwright and Teresa Clements**

tant activities. By encouraging our members to grow, show and redistribute the best of their bulbs, we can improve the quantity and quality of the stock we hold between us and save those old and precious cultivars we love. How do we do it? Be organised, keep your stock well labelled, protect it from pests, diseases and the effects of the weather. Bring your flowers to the show. Lift your bulbs and keep them carefully labelled over summer. Donate some bulbs for redistribution if you can spare them. Remember, if you put in a request, please ask early in the year. It is so much easier to source bulbs from other growers if we have time to exchange emails and calls to try to find that elusive name.

The Small Show was held only a week after the Annual Show, there were 19 exhibitors. This show has evolved from what used to be the Dutch Show. The move to Harrogate Spring Flower Show, which is earlier in the year, gave more people chance to see Dutch tulips but meant only one chance to see English tulips at the Annual Show. For the last two years, the Small Show has been a showcase for tulips that otherwise would not be exhibited and it gives people a second chance to see English Florists' tulips. Following the move from Harrogate some exhibitors worried that the Small Show might eclipse the Annual Show but this has not happened, the two shows remain distinctly different. The quieter nature of the Small Show allows more time to look at the tulips and the reference table is an interesting and popular focus for learning and discussion.

Some of us managed to go on a personal pilgrimage to see *Tulipa sylvestris* growing wild at a site near York and some gathered together at short notice to see *Tulipa sprengeri* growing in profusion at Sleightholmedale Lodge at the

beginning of June. A little later in the year we had a very enjoyable garden visit to Ellerker House, many thanks to Carole Gude for organising that.

Then there was more sad news, Peter Royles died in July, he was 92. Peter raised tulips from seed, he named one of them after his grandson, Deryn Roberts, and it was good to meet Deryn at Peter's funeral. Peter had been encouraged to write a memoir after many informative and entertaining contributions to the Society's newsletter, it is called 'Enjoy your Today's' and is available from the Society's library. He was a great writer, almost to the very end, and I will miss his comical letters, neatly written and full of fun and mischief. We will all miss Peter and his charm and his stories and there will be yet more evidence of our sad loss at the AGM when there is no Bara Brith on the table for lunch.

The Secretary's report to the AGM, and for the newsletter, has an 'end of year' feel to it but it is only a point in a cycle. Some bulbs are exchanged at the AGM and more are allocated at the bulb distribution the following week. At the AGM we confirm the date of the next Annual Show and note the other show dates to come. There's also the trip to Sweden to look forward to. The AGM is a fixed point in a familiar cycle, a milepost, where we stop and look back and also think about what lies ahead. When Tom Baker waves goodbye at the end of the day and wishes me 'Merry Christmas!' I try not to flinch, that's just another point in the cycle.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Society this year, we are very lucky to have members who are talented, enthusiastic, generous and willing to pitch in and help. As a result the Society continues to thrive, long may it last.

---

**Frazer Henderson writes:** This charming tulip vase, standing just 5½" tall, by Shorter and Son Ltd, Copeland St, Stoke was produced, according to the factory stamp, between 1940 and 1964, however, the colour and design points to the late 1940s.

The vase comes in two colours, yellow and red, with the red a broken bloom. Occasionally available in antique shops or internet auction sites the vases can be obtained for between £5 and £15

**Photo: Frazer Henderson**



# Treasurer's Report

## Statement of Accounts Year ending 31st July 2016

| Receipts                    | 2016            | 2015            |                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Subs &amp; Donations</b> |                 |                 |                |
| Subscriptions               | 1,308.50        | 1,320.96        |                |
| Donations                   | 82.00           | 91.00           |                |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>1,390.50</b> | <b>1,411.96</b> |                |
| <b>Sales</b>                |                 |                 |                |
| AGM                         | 103.25          | 90.50           |                |
| Constable Burton            | 198.40          | 162.25          |                |
| Main Show                   | 239.50          | 303.25          |                |
| RHS Harlow Carr             | 129.00          |                 |                |
| Other events                | 52.30           | 108.90          |                |
| Postal                      | 132.50          | 198.62          |                |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>854.95</b>   | <b>863.52</b>   |                |
| <b>Bulbs</b>                |                 |                 |                |
| Hortus bulb sales           | 25.60           | 381.40          |                |
| Dutch bulbs                 | 425.00          | 362.25          |                |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>450.60</b>   | <b>743.65</b>   |                |
| <b>AGM &amp; Shows</b>      |                 |                 |                |
| Raffle                      | 351.00          | 298.14          |                |
| Refreshments                | 373.50          | 368.65          |                |
| Plant sales                 | 121.65          | 175.70          |                |
| Donations: blooms etc       | 9.60            | 28.60           |                |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>855.75</b>   | <b>871.09</b>   |                |
| <b>Bank</b>                 |                 |                 |                |
| Interest & Dividends        | 0.00            | 6.84            |                |
| Sale of Shares              |                 | 446.45          |                |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>0.00</b>     | <b>453.29</b>   |                |
| <b>Grand Total</b>          | <b>3,551.80</b> | <b>4,343.51</b> |                |
| <b>Statement of Assets</b>  | <b>2016</b>     | <b>2015</b>     | <b>Change</b>  |
| <b>Cash Assets</b>          |                 |                 |                |
| Current Account             | 7,347.07        | 7,092.43        | 254.64         |
| Cash in hand                | 86.24           | 73.86           | 12.38          |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>7,433.31</b> | <b>7,166.29</b> | <b>267.02</b>  |
| <b>Other Assets</b>         |                 |                 |                |
| Sales table stock           | 1,569.74        | 1,762.58        | -192.84        |
| Office equipment            | 172.55          | 334.73          | -162.18        |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>1,742.29</b> | <b>2,097.31</b> | <b>-355.02</b> |

| <b>Payments</b>                  | <b>2016</b>     | <b>2015</b>     |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Administration</b>            |                 |                 |
| Newsletter (print and post)      | 677.10          | 799.25          |
| Insurance                        | 230.00          | 230.00          |
| Stationery, office kit, software | 41.98           | 310.75          |
| Postage                          | 158.06          | 162.99          |
| Internet site services           | 271.91          | 65.87           |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1,379.05</b> | <b>1,568.86</b> |
| <b>Purchases</b>                 |                 |                 |
| Display stand                    | 192.17          |                 |
| Other                            | 36.00           | 32.00           |
| Sales table                      | 180.88          | 181.25          |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>409.05</b>   | <b>213.25</b>   |
| <b>Bulbs</b>                     |                 |                 |
| Annual distribution              | 122.20          | 151.01          |
| Breeders from Hortus             | 146.47          | 385.76          |
| Dutch bulbs for AGM              | 213.54          | 350.34          |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>482.21</b>   | <b>887.11</b>   |
| <b>AGM &amp; Shows</b>           |                 |                 |
| Hall hire                        | 276.00          | 254.00          |
| Food, Table Hire etc             | 160.92          | 184.12          |
| Trophies: Engraving & Purchase   | 442.45          | 425.50          |
| Speakers' expenses               | 85.60           | 27.99           |
| Other                            | 49.50           | 16.30           |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1014.47</b>  | <b>907.91</b>   |
| <b>Other</b>                     |                 |                 |
| Misc expenses                    | 0.00            | 160.75          |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>0.00</b>     | <b>160.75</b>   |
| <b>Operating surplus/deficit</b> | <b>267.02</b>   | <b>605.63</b>   |
| <b>Grand Total</b>               | <b>3,551.80</b> | <b>4,343.51</b> |

**Treasurer's notes:**

**1. The Society's auditor (Mr R.Turpin) reports:**

I can confirm that I have examined the Receipts, Payments & statement of assets relating to the year ending Aug 2016 and have found them to be in order.

**2.** There was effectively no income from the Hortus Bulborum bulbs in Autumn 2015 as the Committee had concerns over the quality and identification of the stock, so felt unable to charge.

**3.** "Internet site services" comprises domain name registrations and maintenance of the growing archive web site. We have 11 names similar to tulipsociety.org.uk, and these payments cover more than one year.

## Dates for your Diary

**Alnwick Spring Show:** Saturday 8 April 2017 Willowburn Sports and Leisure Centre NE66 2JH. Further info: David Parker, 16 Meadow Riggs, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1AP email: david.intarsia@yahoo.co.uk

**The Ancient Society of York Florists' Spring Show:** 9 April 2017.

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>

**Harrogate Spring Flower Show:** Thursday 20 to Sunday 23 April 2017. The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society no longer participates but the Daffodil Society has several classes for tulips. Further info: Chris Bone, 7 Royds Close, New Mill, Holmfirth, HD9 1LR. email: cbone70@btinternet.com

**The RHS Late Daffodil and Tulip Competition:** Saturday and Sunday 29 & 30 April 2017. RHS Harlow Carr Garden. Harrogate. Crag Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 1UE At the Bramall Learning Centre. Staging; Friday evening, judging; Saturday morning, access to public; Saturday afternoon and Sunday. The RHS encourages exhibitors to take part in this competition; to do so, please register in advance, if you need further details about registration please contact Teresa Clements.

**Constable Burton Hall Tulip Festival:** Saturday 29 April, to Monday 1 May 2017. Constable Burton Hall, Leyburn, North Yorkshire. DL8 5LJ. The Society will have a stand at the hall for all three days.

**Burnby Hall Gardens Tulip Festival:** Sunday 29 April to Sunday 13 May 2017. Burnby Hall Gardens Pocklington. YO42 2QF

**The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society's 182nd Annual Tulip Show:** Saturday 13 May 2017. Primrose Hall, Green Park Avenue, Horbury, Wakefield. WF4 6EG. Staging 10am to 12noon. The classes will be called at 12 noon and will be followed by judging. Open to the public 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

**The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society's Small Show:**

Date and location to be confirmed nearer the time. Please let the Secretary know if your tulips look set to flower much earlier than the date of the Annual Show or if they are going to be late. This information is essential to help the committee decide the date and location of the Small Show.

**The AGM:** Saturday 7 October 2017. Wrenthorpe Village Hall, Wakefield. WF2 0NE.

**Keukenhof:** dates for 2017 from 23 March to 17 May. Further details: <http://www.keukenhof.nl/en/>

*Further information: Contact the Secretary for schedules or further information about the society's shows [secretary@tulipsociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@tulipsociety.co.uk)*

# Minutes of AGM 1st October 2016

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

1. Chairman's welcoming remarks: Malcolm Hainsworth welcomed those attending; many of whom had come a very long way, including our speaker for the afternoon, Jan Pennings, one of our Vice-Presidents, who came all the way from Breezand in the Netherlands. 65 members signed the attendance list, approximately 70 people were present.

Malcolm announced the death of two much-loved members during the last year; Bob Taylor and Peter Royles and we remembered them during a minute's silence.

James Akers spoke about the life of Peter Royles and John Gibson spoke about Bob Taylor. (Obituaries of both are in this newsletter, see pages 50-52.)

Malcolm reported his intention to step down as Chairman and the committee's decision to appoint Chris Gill as Vice-Chairman for the coming year. Chris told the meeting he was honoured to accept this role and both agreed that they looked forward to working together.

2. Apologies for absence: 23 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:

That the minutes be accepted by the AGM. Proposed: Harriet Gash, Seconded: Tim Lever.

Agreed by the members' show of hands.

4. Matters Arising: None

5. Secretary's Report: See page 5

6. Treasurer's Report: See page 8

That the meeting accept the accounts. Proposed: Trevor Myers, Seconded: John Wainwright

Agreed by the members' show of hands.

## 7. 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, J. Pennings.

Chairman Mr M Hainsworth

Secretary Mrs T Clements

Treasurer Mr J Clements

Editor Ms Tonnvane Wiswell

Auditor Mr Richard Turpin

## 8. Committee:

Wendy Akers, Jason Clements, Teresa Clements, Keith Eyre, John Gibson, Chris Gill, Jane Green, Carole Gude, Malcolm Hainsworth, Terry Mitchell, Neil Tyers, John Wainwright.

Each year three committee members are due for re-election, this year they are Jane Green, John Wainwright and Chris Gill, all are willing to stand again. There was one nomination for the committee, Sarah Brooks, Proposed: Barbara Pickering, Seconded: Linda Chapman.

The officers, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor, are not eligible for re-election but are willing to stand down if anyone wishes to replace them. The Chairman has notified the meeting of his intention to step down and the Secretary would like to follow him in due course, Both would like to remain on the committee but think a change of officers would benefit the Society and relieve the present incumbents.

That the officers and committee be re-elected for the coming year. Proposed: Jyll Thompson, Seconded: Judy Baker.

Agreed by the members' show of hands.

## 9. Show dates 2017:

The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society's 182nd Annual Tulip Show. It was agreed that the Society's Annual Show would be held on Saturday 13 May 2017.

The Small Show. In 2016 this was one week after the Annual Show; the 2017 date will depend on the season. Once again the final decision will be made by the committee, who will require input from the membership about likely flowering time.

For other tulip shows see also 'Dates for Your Diary' page 10

## 9. Any Other Business

1. Keith Orrell. 'Welcome to Wrenthorpe!' Keith drew visitors' attention to the recent improvements in the landscape of the village. Newly planted flower beds and an area of fruit trees, including several apple cultivars, are opposite the hall. We were urged to look at them, learn about them and enjoy them.

2. James Akers has two items for AOB.

1. The new RHS Daffodil, Snowdrop and Tulip Yearbook has gone to press. The Tulip Section Editor is John Page, who was present at this meeting. John commissioned an article on the new classification proposed for species tulips, which is an interesting and potentially controversial read. James recommends members buy a copy and says details of how to obtain one should be made available in the newsletter (See page 47) and via the website.

2. New broken tulips. James has noticed a change in the tulip cultivars being shown over the past fifty years. In some societies it is possible to 'buy success' by purchasing bulbs or plants that will meet the show standards but this is not possible with broken tulips as the effect of the virus makes the flower less predictable from year to year. Examples are Sam Barlow, which used to be seen often as a good flamed flower but is seldom seen now; Wakefield, used to be a good feather but is now mostly seen as a flame; Lady C Gordon and Cyrano have not produced any really good flowers in the last fifty years and Talisman has not produced such good flames recently as it did in the past. The cause of this decline is unknown; it may be resilience to the virus or the change in weather conditions.

David Day brought a good flamed rose tulip to the Small Show; it had been labelled 'Gloria' but was later identified as a new break of 'Rosie Wainwright'. James emphasised the importance of marking new breaks and giving offset bulbs to other members of the Society. Good breaks should be recorded and the bulbs distributed to promote propagation and to avoid losing them. James recalled seeing a particularly good feathered Gloria shown by a previous Chairman and asked where it was the following year, it had not been marked and the owner did not know what had happened to it.

3. Tonnvane Wiswell. An appeal for contributions to the newsletter, it would be good to have more people represented rather than the same names every year. Please send articles, comments, letters and photographs to [editor@tulipsociety.co.uk](mailto:editor@tulipsociety.co.uk)

4. Jan Pennings. As Chair of the RHS Bulb Committee, Jan thanked members of the Society for their entries in the RHS Late Daffodil and Tulip Competition held at RHS Harlow Carr Garden on 30 April 2016. The RHS was impressed with the number and quality of exhibits and with the support the Society gave in setting up and clearing the show. 2016 was the first year this competition had been held in the North of England and Jan hopes members will support the competition at the same location again in 2017.

5. Jane Furse. Brexit. Jane says Brexit is going to affect science in the UK and will be closing the borders to pests and diseases. Is this relevant to the Society? How do we address it? What are we going to do?

TC replies that it is already difficult to send bulbs overseas, even to European countries. One has to be 'economical with the truth'. When asked what is in a parcel it is fair to say it is 'promotional material for the tulip society'.

Sending plant material, including bulbs, overseas is not permitted and the need to do so is kept to a minimum. For commercial businesses licenses can be obtained but for a small group such as ours this is onerous and expensive.

Jan Pennings comments that the Dutch are not happy at the prospect of what lies ahead due to Brexit. In the past the UK and Netherlands have worked together to counterbalance the influence of Germany and France in Europe, now the UK influence will be lost. There is anxiety about new regulations being introduced that will hinder travel and trade for the bulb industry.

6. John Wainwright. The Hortus Bulborum in the Netherlands is now marketing broken tulips; they used to sell only virus-free stock, what are the current restrictions?



**The Society's members rocked some fabulous tulip fashion at the AGM. left Marjorie Butlin in a summery dress with pink and grey blooms. Right: Tonnvane Wiswell's skirt features tulips in red, purple and gold. Photos: Teresa Clements**

TC. There are restrictions on sending unlicensed plant material between countries, which is why there is a problem posting bulbs to overseas members.

Jan Pennings reminds us of the Nagoya Protocol, which does provide some protection for those countries growing old cultivars.

7. Keith Eyre. Over forty years ago Keith sent some 'chocolates' to Victor Roozen in Holland. Victor grew these breeder bulbs and after several seasons presented a small stock of good, virus-free bulbs of named cultivars of English Florists' breeder tulips to the Hortus Bulborum. These established the stocks of bulbs that are now being sold back to our Society and to other growers. That's what is needed; send 'chocolates'!

The meeting was closed at 1.00pm and lunch followed.

# Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society 181st Annual Show

**Teresa Clements**

As people arrived and tulips filled the staging tables and then the dining tables and exhibitor numbers slowly rose to 52 it became clear that the 181st Annual Show was going to be a spectacular event. The classes were called at 12 noon, the Dutch tulips coming first, and exhibitors stepped forward with their vases, 'James is going to need two slices of pork pie after judging this!' said Wendy. 'That's a balanced diet,' said John, 'one in either hand.' As the final classes were called, two extra tables were hurriedly set up to take the final classes then the judges set about their work.

The tradition of 'calling the classes' is unusual. At most flower shows the exhibits are placed on the show bench as the exhibitor completes their preparation and deems them fit to be judged. This allows other contenders to eye up the competition before the judges get a look in and is advantageous to the latecomers who can select an appropriate class where their entry stands the best chance of a prize. At the Annual Tulip Show there is nothing to stop exhibitors

**“This is a solemn moment after an exciting build up...”**

wandering around during the staging period but you can't be certain of the competition until the entries are on the table.

At 12 noon, all is quiet as each class is called in turn. I wonder how many people feel as I do that this is a solemn moment after an exciting build up. Being part of an old tradition and belonging to a group with a common purpose gives an air of gravity to the occasion. This is also the moment of revelation when we really get to see some fabulous tulips set out in neat rows of glittering bottles and as an exhibitor you finally know what you are up against. This year, at the 181st Annual Tulip Show, who expected six entries in Class 8, The Eyre Family Trophy (12 breeder tulips) or four entries in Class 9, The Needham Cup (12 rectified tulips)? Amazing!

Putting an entry in to one of the classes for 12 tulips takes some doing, you need twelve good flowers, all different cultivars, four of each of the three standard colours. It takes time, skill and determination to build up a stock of bulbs that will provide those flowers, and then to have them all in bloom on the right day. We have six people who managed that this year but there is only



**Carole Gude presents Jan Pennings with a book to thank him for opening the show and presenting the trophies. Photo: Teresa Clements**

one trophy and only three cards per class, for such a magnificent effort all six deserve our hearty congratulations!

Exhibitors aimed high this year, part of the art of showing is working out which classes you can enter. If you can manage it, it is usually better to enter



**The winners gathered with their trophies. Photo: Teresa Clements**

a pair or a set of three tulips rather than putting duplicate entries in classes for a single flower. In general, as the number of tulips in the class decreases, the number of entries increases. The entries for breeders this year were as follows.

### **Open classes**

**Class 8:** 12 breeders, 6 entries

**Class 10:** 9 breeders, 3 entries

**Class 13:** 6 breeders, 5 entries

**Class 15:** 3 breeders, 12 entries

**Class 20:** 1 breeder, 18 entries



### **Novice classes**

**Class 26:** 1 breeder, 32 entries

**Class 29:** 3 breeders, 7 entries

### **Extra Open classes**

**Class 30:** 1 breeder, 26 entries

Class 8 stands out as being exceptional this year, but other than that there is the expected increase in entries.

There are three classes for the three stages, breeder, flame and feather, entries were as follows,

**Class 14:** 7 entries

**Class 25:** 5 entries

**Class 33:** 1 entry.

The single entry in class 33, an Extra Open Class, was mine. As the class was called I was very surprised to find that it was the only entry. Who would have thought it? Exhibitors, maybe this is a class to aim for next year!

The results table follows this report and it is good to see the prizes spread among 12 winners. In 2014 Ulf Hansson won the Brook Silver Challenge Cup, the Novice Cup, and followed this in 2015 by winning the Eyre Family Trophy. This impressive feat was followed by Chris Gill, who won the Novice Cup in 2015 and the Eyre Family Trophy in 2016! Congratulations to Natasha McEwen, who won the Novice Cup in 2016, no pressure Natasha..

Morris Robinson won the Tulip Championship of Great Britain with three superb vases of nine World Peace, Red Parade and Hakuun, all beautifully presented. Cynthia Day won Class 2, with a vase of nine Maureen, that also won the Peter Emmett trophy for the best vase in the Dutch classes, and Class 4 with three Maureen, Wendy Akers was runner up in Class 2, also showing nine Maureen. This was a tough class with 11 entries of a very high standard, five of them were white, with Maureen, Clearwater and Hakuun being popular choices.

This year all three premier blooms were bizarres. As bizarre seems the perfect term to describe the growing season, at least here in North Yorkshire, it felt like poetic justice to have three bizarre winners. I refer to the tulips, not the exhibitors! The blooms were photographed by Michael Chapman, who set up a small studio to create a good record of the prize-winning flowers. Many of us were able to photograph the trophy winners, the group photograph being a revival of an old tradition. It wasn't easy to gather all twelve winners together and we haven't matched the formality of some of the old photographs but it is good to have a record for the archive.

James Akers introduced and thanked Jan Pennings, who opened the show and presented the trophies. He also thanked Jan's wife, Ans, who brought some fantastic displays of tulips that impressed all our visitors. Our thanks too to the



**Cynthia Day with her vase of prize-winning Maureen. Photo: Teresa Clements**

judges, who had a lot to do and had regrouped this year to cover different sections of the show, and to all those who helped with the set up, catering, stalls, raffle and clear up after the show, what a day! Finally, well done and thank you to everyone who exhibited their tulips at the 181st Annual Show. It was a difficult season for many of us and the show was a great credit to the record number of exhibitors who made it a truly memorable event.

# The 181st Annual Tulip Show Results

## 14th May 2016

### Vase Classes

**Class 1 Tulip Championship of Great Britain, 3 Vases of 9 Tulips (Three different varieties)** (9): 1. Morris Robinson (Ryton): World Peace, Red Parade, Hakuun. 2. Linda Van Lopik (Pickering): Ballerina plus two cvs, not recorded. 3. Teresa Clements (Harrogate): Angel's Wish plus two cvs, not recorded.

**Class 2 Vase of 9 Tulips (One variety)** (11): 1. Cynthia Day (Ackworth): Maureen. 2. Wendy Akers (Wrenthorpe): Maureen. 3. Morris Robinson: Flaming Spring Green.

**Class 3 Vase of 3 Tulips (One variety, red, pink or orange)** (13): 1. Wendy Akers: Menton. 2. Barbara Pickering (Newmillerdam): Russian Princess. 3. Robin Crouchman (Saffron Walden): Menton.

**Class 4 Vase of 3 Tulips (One variety, white, cream or yellow)** (13): 1. Cynthia Day: Maureen. 2. Teresa Clements: Yellow Angel. 3. Wendy Akers: Clearwater.

**Class 5 Vase of 3 Tulips (One variety, any other colour)** (18): 1. Wendy Akers: Toyota. 2. Teresa Clements: Dordogne. 3. Marie Thomas (Holmfirth): Night Rider.

**Class 6 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips** (1): 1. Trevor Myers (Wilmslow):

**Class 7 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips** (2): 1. Malcolm Hainsworth (York):  
2. Trevor Myers:

### Open Classes

**Class 8 The Eyre Family Trophy, Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties)** (6): 1. Chris Gill (Southowram): Juliet, Casius, Solis, Aonius, Talisman, Wendy Akers, Trefoil Guild, Music, Sam Barlow, unknown, Goldfinder, James Wild. 2. Judy Baker (Hitcham): Aonius, Gloria, Juliet, Casius, Columbine, James Wainwright, Wendy Akers, Albert Tear, Jack Taylor, Lemuria, Airy, Goldfinder. 3. John Wainwright (Wrenthorpe): Goldfinder, Airy, Lord Stanley, G91 11, Albert Tear, Bessie, Argyre, Wendy Akers, Aonius, Parisii, Utopia, Gloria.

**Class 9 Needham Memorial Cup, Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips (all dissimilar)** (4): 1. John Snocken (Bridgnorth): Sir Joseph Paxton fl, Lord Frederick Cavendish fl, James Wild fe, Royal Sovereign fe, Constable Burton fl, Agbrigg fl, Mrs F Calvert fe, Habit de Noce fe, Wakefield fl, Mabel fl, Wakefield fe, Akers fe. 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley fl, Sir Joseph Paxton fl, James Wild fe, Royal Sovereign fe, Talisman fl, Columbine fl, Adonis fe,



**Lord Frederick Cavendish Flame, shown by John Snocken, winner of Best Flame. Photo: Michael Chapman**

Habit de Noce fe, Wakefield fl, Mabel fl, Wakefield fe, Julia Farnese fe. 3. Trevor Myers: Dr Hardy fl, Lord Stanley fl, James Wild fe, Lord Stanley fe, Columbine fl, Bessie fl, Adonis fe, Talisman fe, Julia Farnese fl, Akers fl, Akers fe, Julia Farnese fe.

**Class 10 Royles Jubilee Cup, Stand of 9 Breeders (different varieties) (3):**

1. Judy Baker: Airy, Goldfinder, Lemuria, Talisman, Cydonia, Columbine, Casius, Mabel, Juliet. 2. Chris Gill: unknown, Goldfinder, Lord Stanley, Music, Wendy Akers, Trefoil Guild, Juliet, Aonius, Casius. 3. Ulf Hansson (Halmstad): Goldfinder, Airy, Jack Taylor, Talisman, Albert Tear, Wendy Akers, Judy Baker, Aonius, Mabel.

**Class 11 Local Silver Challenge Cup, Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar) (6):** 1. John Snocken: Goldfinder, Columbine, Juliet, Sir Joseph Paxton fl, Wakefield fl, Talisman fl, Royal Sovereign fe, Mabel fe, Habit de Noce



**Above: Goldfinder breeder.  
Photo: Michael Chapman**

fe. 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Mabel, Talisman, Airy, Akers fl, Columbine fl, Lord Stanley fl, Wakefield fe, Habit de Noce fe, Royal Sovereign fe. 3. Alice Green (North Ferriby): Juliet, Bessie, James Wild, Gloria fl, Habit de Noce fl, Goldfinder fl, Wakefield fe, Columbine fe, Lord Stanley fe.

**Class 12 Silver Challenge Cup, Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips (3):**

1. John Snocken: Royal Sovereign fe, Sir Joseph Paxton fl, Habit de Noce fe, Talisman fl, Mabel fe, Wakefield fl. 2. Judy Baker: Lord Stanley fe, Sir Joseph Paxton fl, Constable Burton fl, Adonis fe, Juliet fe, Akers fl. 3. Alice Green: Lord Stanley fe, Goldfinder fl, Agbrigg fe, Columbine fl, Wakefield fe, Gloria fl.

**Class 13 The G.S.Hunter Memorial Cup, Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties) (5):**

1. Judy Baker: James Wild, Airy, Albert Tear, Trefoil Guild, Casius, Mabel. 2. Chris Gill: Goldfinder, James Wild, Argyre, Music, Juliet, Casius. 3. J N Gibson (Kirkburton): Lord Stanley, Goldfinder, Music, Talisman, Gloria, Juliet.

**Class 14 Stages Cup, Pan of 3 stages: one Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (7):** 1. Chris Gill: Lord Stanley. 2. Judy Baker: James Wild. 3. Teresa Clements: Lord Stanley.

**Class 15 Silver Plate, Pan of 3 Breeders: one Bizarre, one Bybloemen, one Rose (12):** 1. Judy Baker: Goldfinder, Talisman, Mabel. 2. Trevor Myers: Lord Stanley, Music, Mabel. 3. Neil Tyers (Coalville): Lord Stanley, Wendy Akers, Rosie Wainwright.

**Class 16 Three Flamed (6):** 1. John Snocken: Sir Joseph Paxton, Agbrigg, Mabel. 2. Alice Green: Lord Stanley, Columbine, Gloria. 3. Judy Baker: James Wild, Halmstad, Akers.

**Class 17 Three Feathered (3):** 1. Chris Gill: Lord Frederick Cavendish, Adonis, Mabel. 2. Judy Baker: Lord Stanley, Agbrigg, Julia Farnese. 3. John Snocken: Lord Frederick Cavendish, Ruth Duthie, Habit de Noce.

**Class 18 Pair of Flamed (11):** 1. David Day (Ackworth): Lord Stanley, Wakefield. 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lemon Paxton, Mabel. 3. Judy Baker: Agbrigg, Lord Stanley.

**Class 19 Pair of Feathered (6):** 1. Judy Baker: Dr Hardy, Agbrigg. 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: James Wild, Adonis. 3. Chris Gill: Sam Barlow, Juliet.

**Class 20 One Breeder (18):** 1. Alice Green: Goldfinder. 2. J N Gibson: Goldfinder. 3. Chris Gill: Juliet.

**Class 21 One Flamed (10):** 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley. 2. Alice Green: Lord Stanley. 3. John Snocken: Sir Joseph Paxton.

**Class 22 One Feathered (7):** 1. Judy Baker: James Wild. 2. Trevor Myers: Akers. 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Royal Sovereign.

## Seedling Classes

**Class 23 Seedling Cup, One Seedling Breeder or Rectified raised by the exhibitor (1):** 1. John Wainwright: G91 11.

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

**An arrangement of Tropical Wave tulips by Ans Pennings.**

**Photo: Michael Chapman**



## Novice Classes

**Class 25 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (5):** 1. Neil Tyers: Music, Talisman, Adonis. 2. Gill Starkey (Craster): Mabel, Habit de Noce, Goldfinder. 3. Trevor Myers: James Wild, Dr Hardy, Wendy Akers.

**Class 26 One Breeder (32):** 1. Alvar Hansson (Halmstad): James Wild. 2. Linda Dooley (Manchester): Judy Baker. 3. Peter Maddison (Woodbridge): Airy.

**Class 27 One Flamed (16):** 1. Natasha McEwen (Northumberland): Lord Stanley. 2. David Day: Mabel. 3. David Bonser (Craster): James Wild.

**Class 28 One Feathered (9):** 1. Natasha McEwen: Habit de Noce. 2. John Pad-dick (Winchester): Royal Sovereign. 3. Trevor Myers: Royal Sovereign.

**Class 29 The Gina Roozen Cup, Pan of 3 Breeders: one Bizarre, one By-bloemen, one Rose (7):** 1. David Bonser: James Wild, Talisman, Aonius. 2. Faye Steer (Chatsworth): Lord Stanley, James Wainwright, Aonius. 3. Sarah Brooks (Sheffield): Sam Barlow, Argyre, Aonius.

## Extra Open Classes

**Class 30 One Breeder (26):** 1. David Day: Goldfinder. 2. Don Palmer (Ashford): Lord Stanley. 3. Harriet Gash (Stamford): Mabel.

**Class 31 One Flamed (9):** 1. David Day: Lord Stanley. 2. Natasha McEwen: James Wild. 3. Jenny Orrell (Wrenthorpe): Lord Stanley.

**Class 32 One Feathered (4):** 1. David Day: James Wild. 2. Natasha McEwen: Julia Farnese. 3. Don Palmer: Wakefield.

**Class 33 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (1):** 1. Teresa Clements: Akers fe, Wakefield fl, Parisii.

## Points Classes

**F R Hunter Cup, Most points in Vase classes (2 - 5):** Wendy Akers:

**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):** Natasha McEwen:

**Glass Goblet, Most points in Extra Open Classes (30 - 33):** David Day:

## Bloom Classes

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

**Peter Emmett Trophy, Best Exhibit Classes 2 - 5:** Cynthia Day: Maureen.

**Cochrane of Cults Vase, Best Bloom Classes 20 - 22:** Alice Green: Goldfinder.



**Michael Chapman's small studio for photographing tulips.**

**Photo: Teresa Clements**

**The Dudmaston Plate, Best Bloom in Novice Classes 25-29:** Trevor Myers: James Wild.

**S Knowles Cup, Best Bloom in Extra Open Classes 30 - 33:** David Day: Goldfinder.

**The James Akers Trophy, Best Feather in Show:** Trevor Myers: James Wild.

**The Wendy Akers Trophy, Best Flame in Show:** John Snocken: Sir Joseph Paxton.

**The Keith Eyre Trophy, Best Breeder Tulip in Show:** John Snocken: Goldfinder.

**Albert Tear Memorial Trophy, Overall Premier Bloom:** Trevor Myers: James Wild.

# The Small Show

## 22nd May 2016

**Teresa Clements**

This year the Small Show was held only one week after the 181st Annual Show, on Sunday 22 May at Wrenthorpe Village Hall. The Small Show has 20 classes, ten for Dutch and ten for English tulips. The main intention of holding this show is to give growers whose tulips are either too early or too late for the Annual Show a chance to exhibit their flowers and hear the judges' opinion of them. This was the second time this show has been held in recent years and on both occasions it has followed the Annual Tulip Show, the Society's main annual show, to accommodate late flowers.

There are far fewer classes for English Florists' tulips than at the Annual Show but it is a second opportunity to see them at close quarters and gives exhibitors and visitors time to discuss, identify and compare individual tulips and cultivars, which can be difficult in the busy atmosphere of the Annual Show. Once again there was a reference table with labelled examples of different cultivars and flowers with various faults that people could handle and examine.

The Small Show was well attended with 19 exhibitors. The prize cards were well distributed amongst them but Teresa Clements gained most points in the English classes, just ahead of Chris Gill, and was awarded the Wakefield Vase. This was the second year it was awarded and the current holder was intending to present it to the new winner but was pleased to hold on to it without ceremony.

David Day brought a flamed, rose tulip to the show that attracted much attention. It was labelled 'Gloria' but there was some uncertainty about its identity. Past breaks of 'Gloria' have not been as finely marked as this flower, which was regarded as a newly-broken breeder. This notable flower was later identified as a new break of 'Rosie Wainwright', a twenty-first century rose breeder tulip raised by John Wainwright. The flower was much admired for its symmetry, colour and fine markings. David has marked the bulb and given offsets away to be grown elsewhere. It will





**A new break of *Tulipa* Rosie Wainwright Flame was identified at the show.  
Photo: John Wainwright**

be of great interest to many of us to see if it maintains its pattern in the coming years. If it keeps its good looks it will be a very welcome addition to the range of rectified rose cultivars available for exhibition.

# The Small Show Results

## 22nd May 2016

### Vase Classes

**Class 1 The John Hardman Memorial Vase, Vase of 18 Tulips (One variety) (2):** 1. Teresa Clements (Harrogate): Dordogne. 2. Teresa Clements: Roi du Midi.

**Class 2 Vase of 9 Tulips (One variety) (1):** 1. Wendy Akers (Wrenthorpe): Maureen.

**Class 3 Vase of 3 Tulips, Darwin hybrid or Single late (One variety) (5):** 1. Linda Van Lopik (Pickering): Russian Princess. 2. Wendy Akers: Dordogne.

**Class 4 Vase of 3 Tulips, Lily flowered (One variety) (4):** 1. Wendy Akers: China Pink. 2. Terry Mitchell (Ossett): Red Shine. 3. Linda Chapman (Pickering): Elegant Lady.

**Class 5 Vase of 3 Tulips, Parrot (One variety) (1):** 1. Wendy Akers: Flaming Parrot.

**Class 6 Vase of 3 Tulips, Fringed (One variety) (5):** 1. Jean Wyatt (Barnsley): Flaming Baltic. 2. Jean Wyatt: Cummins. 3. Linda Van Lopik: Swan Wings.

**Class 7 Vase of 3 Tulips, Double (One variety) (3):** 1. Wendy Akers: Angelique. 2. Teresa Clements: Angelique. 3. Jenny Orrell (Wrenthorpe): Angelique.

**Class 8 Vase of 3 Tulips, Multi-headed (One variety) (3):** 1. Jenny Orrell: Antoinette. 2. Teresa Clements: Antoinette. 3. Linda Chapman: Antoinette.

**Class 9 Vase of 5 Tulips (species or small-flowered) (1):** 1. Teresa Clements: T. batalini 'Bright Gem'.

**Class 10 A pot or pan of species or small-flowered tulips (1):** 1. Teresa Clements: T. batalini 'Bright Gem'.

### English Florists' Tulips Classes

**Class 11 Stand of 9 English Florists' Tulips (all dissimilar) (3):** 1. Trevor Myers (Wilmslow): Goldfinder, Sir Joseph Paxton fl, James Wild fe, Talisman, Bessie fl, Mrs Calvert fe, Mabel, Wakefield fl, Akers fe. 2. Teresa Clements: Mercury, Lord Stanley fl, Sir Joseph Paxton fe, Music, Albert Tear fl, Habit de Noce fe, Casius, Akers fl, Akers fe. 3. Chris Gill (Southwram): Goldfinder, Lord Stanley fl, James Wild fe, Talisman, Bessie fl, Mrs Calvert fe, Mabel, Julia Farnese fl, Wakefield fe.

**Class 12 Stand of 6 rectified English Florists' Tulips (3):** 1. Chris Gill: Mabel

fl, Wakefield fe, Columbine fl, Adonis fe, James Wild fl, James Wild fe. 2. Teresa Clements: Mabel fl, Akers fe, Bessie fl, Habit de Noce fe, Lord Frederick Cavendish fl, Sir Joseph Paxton fe. 3. Trevor Myers: Akers fl, Akers fe, Albert Tear fl, Mrs Calvert fe, Lord Stanley fl, Lord Stanley fe.

**Class 13 Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties)** (6): 1. Chris Gill: Casius, Juliet, Music, Talisman, Goldfinder, Lord Stanley. 2. John Wainwright (Wrenthorpe): Mabel, Judy Baker, Albert Tear, Talisman, James Wild, Sam Barlow. 3. Teresa Clements: Aonius, Solis, Albert Tear, Wendy Akers, Airy, James Wild.

**Class 14 Pan of 3 stages: one Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered** (4): 1. Teresa Clements: Gloria, Gloria fe, Gloria fl. 2. Trevor Myers: James Wild, James Wild fe, James Wild fl. 3. Chris Gill: Bessie, Bessie fe, Bessie fl.

**Class 15 Pan of 3 Breeders: one Bizarre, one Bybloemen, one Rose** (9): 1. John Gibson (Kirkburton): Mabel, Talisman, Goldfinder. 2. Chris Gill: Judy Baker, Talisman, James Wild. 3. James Akers (Wrenthorpe): Mabel, Wendy Akers, Airy.

**Class 16 Pair of Flamed** (8): 1. Mike Higgins (Dacre): Lord Stanley fl, Talisman fl. 2. David Day (Ackworth): Lord Stanley fl, Talisman fl. 3. Teresa Clements: Lord Stanley fl, Mabel fl.

**Class 17 Pair of Feathered** (4): 1. James Akers: Agbrigg fe, Royal Sovereign fe. 2. Teresa Clements: Habit de Noce fe, Mabel fe. 3. John Wainwright: Sir Joseph Paxton fe, Wakefield fe.

**Class 18 One Breeder** (28): 1. Teresa Clements: Albert Tear. 2. Chris Gill: Juliet. 3. Mike Higgins: Albert Tear.

**Class 19 One Flamed** (17): 1. Roy Mitchell (Wrenthorpe): James Wild fl. 2. Trevor Myers: Lord Stanley fl. 3. David Day: Gloria fl.

**Class 20 One Feathered** (7): 1. Trevor Myers: James Wild fe. 2. Roy Mitchell: Lord Stanley fe. 3. Mike Higgins: Sir Joseph Paxton fe.

## Points Classes

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

## Bloom Classes

**Best Feather in Show:** Trevor Myers: James Wild.

**Best Flame in Show:** Chris Gill: James Wild.

**Best Breeder Tulip in Show:** Teresa Clements: Albert Tear.

**Overall Premier Bloom:** Chris Gill: James Wild.

# The RHS Late Daffodil and Tulip Competition

**Teresa Clements**

This year the RHS held the Late Daffodil and Tulip Competition at Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate, the first time it has been held in the North. The competition, held on 29 April 2016, has fifteen classes for tulips. Northern growers, many of them members of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society, responded enthusiastically to the challenge. The number of exhibitors, fourteen, was double that seen in previous years and the first prizes were spread between eight of them.

The judges, Keith Eyre and Jane Green, had 86 vases and four pots of tulips to examine; a total of 330 individual blooms in the vases alone. The quality of the exhibits was excellent, John and Jean Gibson's vase of nine 'Angels Wish' won Class I, beating ten other entries, and the couple also took first place in Class 3 with a vase of three 'Angels Wish'. It is worth noting that it was the same cultivar that took first place in Class 1 last year, on that occasion grown by Paul Payne.

The winners of Class 1 are awarded the Walter Blom trophy and this was presented to them by the Chairman of the RHS Bulb Committee, Jan Pennings. John and Jean have competed for it in previous years and this was their first success. Jan also presented the trophy for 'Best Vase' to Linda van Lopik, of Pickering, whose entry 'Marit' won Class 6 (one cultivar, any colour but not eligible for classes 3 to 5, three blooms in one vase). The new venue saw regular exhibitors joined by those who had never taken part in an RHS competition before and it was pleasing and encouraging for the organisers and the exhibitors to see new names on the prize-winners list and a good spread of success.



Unfortunately the Bank Holiday weekend weather was cold and wet, but this meant visitors to Harlow Carr



**Left: the display boards detailing the history of florists' societies and the WNETS were very popular with visitors to the competition. Above: this vase of nine *Tulipa Angels Wish* won first prize in Class 1. Photos: Teresa Clements**

Gardens were keen to come indoors. Our Society's new display boards made a big impact in the entrance to the Bramall Learning Centre, where the competitions were held. They showed the history of Florists' societies, and the Wakefield Tulip Society in particular, and were much admired. Visitors enjoyed seeing a colourful show of tulips downstairs and a wide range of daffodils in the room upstairs and they were welcomed by enthusiasts and experts ready to engage in conversation and answer their questions.

Members of the Daffodil Society and the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society helped with the set up and clearing away of the competitions and the RHS staff were grateful for their assistance. The move to the North was experimental and may only be temporary but the RHS have decided to hold the competitions at Harlow Carr again in 2017. (See Dates for your Diary.) This will please many who were inspired by this year's event, some of whom said they would like to take part as exhibitors next year. Good luck to all contenders!

# The Lentetuin Show, Breezand

Teresa Clements

Early in March the RHS Bulb Committee visited the Netherlands. Our first stop, on 4 March 2016 was the Lentetuin Show in Breezand. This is an early show for bulb merchants to showcase their goods for the coming season and also to demonstrate the skill of the growers. The quality of the exhibits and the presentation was unlike anything we see in the UK. The Dutch like to see their tulips in full colour and in tight bud. They are shown in containers and magnificent arrangements in a display that is partly naturalistic and partly fantastical. The show is held in a sports hall and the temperature is kept very low to maintain the flowers at the peak of perfection. There is always a theme to the display as although this show is primarily for business, the public are invited in too. There was no mistaking this year's theme of Fairy Stories, behind the immaculate displays of exquisite tulips there was Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf – and the wolf was singing!

This combination of a rather kitsch backdrop seemed somewhat at odds with the exemplary displays of daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, lilies and fritillaries but there was no denying the enormous effort that must have gone into setting up the show. Sleeping Beauty's chest gently heaved as she slept. Her bed was in a tiny room festooned with many strings of single hyacinth florets that must have taken many hours to pick and thread. The grand displays of mixed flowers illustrated what is possible for the modern florist to provide for the customer, given this kind of material, sufficient funds and a good supplier.

**“Flowers at the peak of perfection...”**

The RHS Bulb Committee had a privileged early view of the show before the crowds arrived but we were eager to return for a second look after talks and meetings later in the day. Other visitors, both young and old, were delighted by the manikins, the extraordinary staging and the wonderful flowers. Only the Dutch could have dreamt this up and only they could present it so magnificently. I wonder what they must think of our shows; do they seem full of overblown flowers in dull and formal arrays? We all know about the Keukenhof and the Hortus Bulborum but the Lentetuin Show in Breezand is seldom mentioned. It deserves to be far better known and visited. It is a celebration of what the Dutch Bulb Industry can do in raising new cultivars,

**Right: A mountain of tulips showcases the exemplary quality that the Dutch growers achieve. Photo: James Akers**





**Above: The nefarious Mr Wolf up to no good amongst the tulips and daffodils at Lentetuin. Photo: James Akers**

growing flowers for the cut flower and pot plant market and is full of new ideas for displays. It also gives visitors a great chance to meet the growers and ask questions and give them some feedback too.

Did I mention there are also demonstrations, stalls with goods to buy and a café? They all in a heated area away from the cool sports hall, book your tickets now!

# Garden visit: Sleightholmedale Lodge

**Linda Chapman**

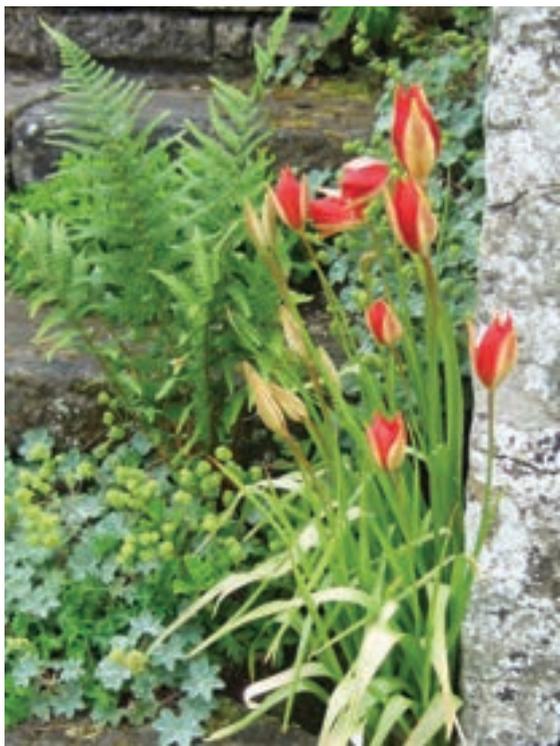
On the 1st June 2016, a few members of the Tulip Society visited the garden of the James family at Sleightholmedale Lodge, near the village of Fadmoor, five miles north of Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire. The purpose of the visit was to see *Tulipa sprengeri*, which has naturalised there, forming what is believed to be one of the largest populations of this unusual tulip in the UK.

The garden is nestled between the moors and Hodge Beck, on the gentle south-facing slope of a secluded wooded valley at 350 feet (107 m) above sea level on the southern edge of the North York Moors National Park. It appears that this sheltered valley has its own microclimate and also a mix of soil types to suit a wide range of plants. On the day we visited, a low mist hung on the hills; as we descended into the dale we came out of the mist but it remained dull and damp.

We were welcomed in to the garden by the new Head Gardener, Bertie Bainbridge, who told us a little about the tulips and the meconopsis that also thrives and hybridises here. We were then encouraged to walk freely around the grounds. On the upper slopes, above the house, is an old walled garden that in summer is bursting with the colour and texture of perennials and roses. Below the house the slope is terraced; steep steps and pathways wind down through the rocky terrain to the valley floor that broadens into extensive meadowlands.

The garden at Sleightholmedale Lodge has been nurtured with love and care over more than a hundred years by

**Right: *Tulipa sprengeri* growing at Sleightholme Lodge. The flower was first identified in Amasia, Turkey, in 1894. Photo: Teresa Clements**





**Above: Sleightholmedale Lodge. Photo: Teresa Clements. Right: Linda Chapman in conversation with head gardener Bertie Bainbridge. Photo: James Akers**

four generations of the same family. The house and garden were a gift to the current owner Patrick James's great grandmother, Ulrica, the youngest daughter of the Earl of Feversham in the late 19th Century.

Patrick, with his family, only moved into the house a year ago. For more than 25 years, until recently, his mother, Rosanna, a lifelong lover of wild flowers, and like her mother before her, a talented plantswoman, has been the driving force behind the garden. With a passion for naturalistic relaxed and informal planting, before it became fashionable, Rosanna, who grew up at Sleightholmedale Lodge, learned what worked best in the garden over the years.

Patrick's grandmother planted the first few of the *sprengeri* tulips in the 1950s. Since then they have spread rapidly. *Sprengeri* is unusual; it flowers in early June, after other tulips have finished, and it grows well in shade. Because they are difficult to propagate the bulbs are expensive but Rosanna scattered the seeds. They can take from four to six years to flower and fifty years to naturalise properly, in receptive shaded sites.

Our first view of the *Tulipa sprengeri* was breathtaking; masses of crimson tulips intermingled with English bluebells and cow parsley under a large tree. The colours appeared like a collection of jewels brightening the grey day. The starry flowers, with pointed tepals were of the order of 40 cms tall, markedly





**A mass of *Tulipa sprengeri* in a bed at the Lodge. Photo: Linda Chapman**

upright and standing well above their long thin glossy leaves. Beneath the house on the terraced slopes were huge drifts of the tulip. It was growing in many locations in the garden; under trees; in rockeries; in meadowland. It had seeded into flowerbeds and, improbably, was coming up between paving slabs on the pathways and steps. It was noted that there was some variation between the flowers. In some flowers the outer three tepals were tinged with yellow whilst other flowers were completely crimson.

For many years it was thought that *Tulipa sprengeri* was extinct in the wild although according to Richard Wilford, in 'Tulips - Species and Hybrids for the Gardener' (2006), there are reports that it was recently rediscovered growing wild in Turkey.

*Tulipa sprengeri* was first collected in the 1890s in Amasia, Northern Turkey and introduced to horticultural circles by Damman & Co of Naples, Italy, in 1894. In the same year J Gilbert Baker described the species in 'The Gardener's Chronicle'. Baker named the species *Tulipa sprengeri* after Carl Sprenger of Damman & Co. It is likely that more than one collection was made from the wild around this time; however, it is thought that no new material has been introduced since before the First World War.

Sleightholmedale Lodge remains a stalwart of the National Gardens Scheme, having opened to the public every year since 1947. Any Tulip Society member wishing to see the tulips will always find the garden open at the beginning of June.

# The Istanbul Tulip Foundation

**Frazer Henderson**

Earlier this year, in April, I had a three day stopover in Istanbul enroute to Central Asia and decided to take the metro to ITC station and then walk north for 20 minute to Emirgân Park to admire the tulip display, for which the park has become world famous. Alas, the season was early and all the tulips had gone over by 20th April. However, all was not lost, because in 2015 the Ottoman Horse Stables on the east of the park were sympathetically restored and now house the Istanbul Tulip Foundation.

The Foundation comprises two large exhibition rooms and a spacious foyer in which is located a small retail outlet. There are also offices and research facilities. One of the exhibition halls is ostensibly a museum presenting a well labelled retrospective of the history of tulips together with an informative and interesting display of Turkey's cultural association with the flower. The interpretative panels are in Turkish and English and there are some truly beguiling objects with tulip motifs and associations. The museum gives you a good insight as to the extent that the appreciation of tulips informed the artistic and cultural life of the Ottomans.

The other hall provides ever-changing art shows each focussing on certain aspects of tulips. The then current exhibition was an eclectic show by a single artist in many different styles – it was pleasing to the eye, especially those works which mixed photo-realism with traditional ebru.

I do recommend a visit to the Foundation I spent a pleasant 1.5 hours there. The art exhibition is free and the museum is a mere 5 TL (which is just over one pound).

**Inside the display rooms of the Foundation. Photo: Frazer Henderson**



# Garden visit: Ellerker House

## Harriet Gash

**E**llerker House was originally the estate office for the Duke of Norfolk and was sold off in the 1950s and turned into a home. The present owner, Ros Loz, has been there for 25 years and has formed the garden out of the fields, old marl pit and wilderness with wonderful mature trees from the former park. The area is roughly rectangular and extends to 5 acres (2.02 ha).

The house is approached along a fine avenue of beech trees with grass either side. In front of the house are shrub and herbaceous borders with an orange colour scheme screening a courtyard with climbers up the house walls and a narrow border and containers plus an area of topiary to the left. To the right an arch with *Rosa* 'Tradition' gives access to an orchard area beyond which are some magnificent mature trees including a *Nothofagus antarctica* and an area for soft fruit enclosed with a copper beech hedge.

Towards the lake are island beds planted with shade tolerant shrubs and herbaceous plants among which a fine clump of *Salvia turkestanica* stood out. A terrace runs along the back of the house to an arbour roofed by *Rosa* 'Rambling Rector'.



At right angles to the terrace a pergola planted with climbing roses leads into the area round the lake formed from the old marl pit. The banks of the lake are planted with hostas and Asiatic primroses. A kingfisher was nesting in the far bank but was too shy to show himself to most of us. A border alongside the pergola is planted with old and David Austin roses and herbaceous plants in a pink/mauve/purple colour scheme. The lawn in front is enlivened by a family of ducks modelled in metal. The other side of the lawn is a medlar tree in an island bed. Further island beds most skilfully placed in the lawns entice the visitor onwards to the end of the garden. Each bed has its own colour scheme - white and yellow; yellow and blue; pink and purple. The planting is outstanding. Then at the



**Left: Dark red Asiatic lilies. Above: an arch of *Rosa* 'Tradition'. Photos: James Akers**

back of the garden is a stand of birch trees and a thatched arbour beyond an old brick building where we were given a splendid tea. Right at the far left hand end of the garden are two borders with dark red colour schemes - principally Asiatic lilies and *Clematis* 'Niobe' and *Clematis* 'Madame Julia Correvon' set against a background of shrubs with lime green foliage. It is a most successful combination.

There is an extensive display of plants for sale propagated from the garden and most of us came away with lovely souvenirs of our visit.

# Lost Painting Rediscovered

Teresa Clements

On 2 Feb 2016, our President, the Duke of Devonshire received an email that was passed on to the Society. This is what it said,

“In July of the past year, me and my colleague found a picture in the dressing room of a client, Oil on plate; Balthasar van der Ast; from 1625 (Tulpomania). It shows one of the most expensive and adorable tulip flowers of this time, one of the only sorts of this period, that actually still exists. The story behind the tulip and the filigrane painting is shaking the art scene. If His Grace, the Duke of Devonshire- the President of the Tulip Society- would be interested in more details, I would translate the following sentences and give more informations. With the best regards, Dr. Christian-Frederik Plötz”

Dr Plötz had rediscovered a painting last seen at an exhibition in Münster, ‘The masters of Middelburg’, in 1984, after that it had disappeared. For 30 years art experts had tried to track it down but it remained elusive until Dr Plötz noticed it by chance when visiting a client in Bonn to look at some jewellery. He immediately recognized it as a significant 17th Century painting and asked the owner if he could let experts see it. His contacts soon identified the painting as the lost work of Balthazar van der Ast, a celebrated painter of still life from the Dutch Golden Age.

Van der Ast lived in Utrecht from 1593 to 1657 and this painting has been dated 1625. It is slightly less than A4 in size and shows a single tulip in a glass vase. It is thought to be a unique depiction of a single tulip from this period.

The painting’s owner wished to remain anonymous but agreed to loan the painting as one of the highlights of an exhibition of 40 van der Ast works, More beautiful than nature: The Still Lifes of Balthasar van der Ast, which took place in Germany this summer.

The tulip is thought to be *Tulipa* ‘Zomerschoon’, which is still available and is grown by many collectors of old tulip cultivars today. In 2014, Ulf Hansson won the Peter Emmett Trophy for a vase of three Zomerschoon. It is remarkable that we still have this tulip today and that it is still delighting florists and artists with its beauty.

**This 1625 painting by Dutch Golden Age master Balthasar van der Ast was thought lost for 30 years. Photo: Private collection**



# WNETS visit to Sweden

The WNETS invites all members (and their friends and partners) to come on a tulip lovers' trip to Sweden on the 16th and 17th of June, 2017. The trip include a trip to the Linnean Garden in Uppsala on Friday, June 16th, as well as a visit to the cathedral and the university library to see a book with paintings of broken tulips by Rudbeck. Then on Saturday we plan to see the Linneas Garden at Hammarby as well as Skokloster, "The Tulip Castle," which features baroque architecture, fine paintings, and tulips on embossed leather wallpaper. We will conclude with a dinner on Saturday night. The cost of transport, admission fees and catering for Saturday 17th June is currently estimated at around £60 per person. This includes coach travel for the day, admission and a guide for both the Linnaeus Garden at Hammarby and Skolkoster Castle as well as dinner in the evening.

Travel arrangements to Uppsala should be made individually, but there are discounted rooms available at the Clarion Hotel Gillet in Uppsala. Rates including breakfast and tax are as follows:

Single room 895 SK/night (£81.35 appx)

Double room 1150 SK/night (£104.53 appx)

To book these rooms, send an email to [cl.uppsala@choice.se](mailto:cl.uppsala@choice.se) referencing booking code 132502. The same rate can be offered for Friday, Saturday and Sunday night (16, 17, 18 June 2017) but is not available any other night i.e. Thursday. More details are available in the email sent out to members; please contact [t.clements@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:t.clements@zetnet.co.uk) if you have questions or wish to let her know you will be joining the group.

**Skokloster, the 'Tulip Castle'. Photo: Skokloster archives**



# Daffodil, Snowdrop and Tulip Yearbook 2016 (RHS)

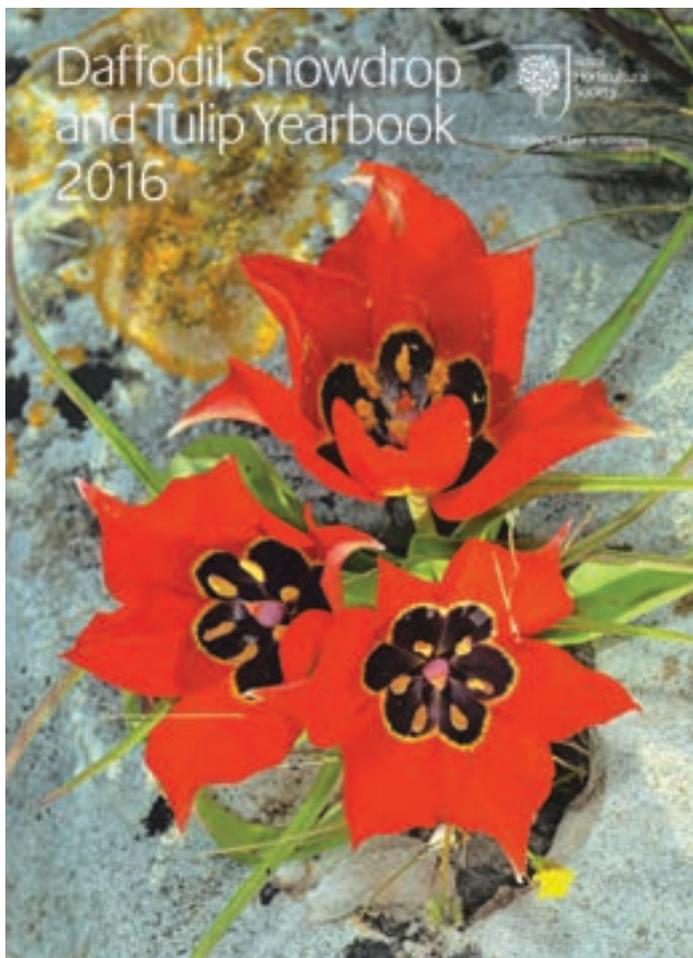
The Chairman of the RHS Bulb Committee, Jan Pennings, has described this booklet as a jewel of a publication and he is right. It is beautifully presented with clear, bright photographs and the content is of exceptional quality. This year there is a twenty-two page section on tulips with an account of a new approach to reclassifying species tulips, news of tulip conservation in Israel, a personal view of two tulip festivals in Yorkshire and a fascinating insight into the commercial cultivation of tulips for cut flowers in the UK.

In addition to the tulip section there are show reports and many other interesting articles about daffodils and snowdrops, all illustrated with beautiful photographs.

If you wish to obtain a copy of the 2016 yearbook, please send a cheque for the discounted price of £9.50 (made payable to 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. If you prefer to order it online, it is available via John's website <http://johngibson-daffodils.co.uk/> where you can pay by PayPal, which overseas readers in particular may find is more convenient.

ISBN 9781907057687.



# Book Reviews

Frazer Henderson

## THE INFINITE TULIP

*Harold Feinstein, Bluefinch Press, 2004, ISBN 0-8212-2874-9*

This beautifully presented small format, hard cover publication contains 60 stunningly, artistic photographs each showcasing the splendour and variety of tulips. Though there are no images of English tulips I heartily recommend getting hold of a copy from one of the online booksellers – you will not be disappointed as it will provide enduring visual pleasure.

## TULIPS, A guide to cultivation

*Ann Bonar, Pavilion Books, 1993, ISBN 1-85793-052-5*

In just 64 tightly written pages this small illustrated book manages to pack a lot of information with chapters on the history of tulips, their classification and their care and cultivation. Much of the content will be familiar to most tulipaholics though I admit I hadn't seen the splendid image by Moses Harris (1730-88) of a broken tulip before nor was I aware that General Lambert, a Roundhead general in the English Civil War, was satirised for his fondness of tulips in the illustrations on a pack of playing cards issued by the Cavaliers. The only reference to breeder and broken tulips is that of the collection held at Bulbus Bulborum. That said, it remains a useful introduction to tulips.

## [TULIP]

*Theodore James Jnr, Harry Abrams Books, USA, 2003, ISBN 0-8109-9099-7*

In addition to the standard fare on history, tulip classification, planting and care there is a useful chapter on colour harmony and combinations. Complementary planting of other species with specific tulip varieties are proposed and discussed, for instance, a yellow and purple palette could consist of 'West Point' against a backdrop of purple azalea, and so on.

The book is squarely aimed at the North American market with a list of bulb suppliers only from that side of the Atlantic.



Whilst the photographs are good I was irritated by the corruption of the English language in the paragraph entitled ‘Perennializing Tulips’. In conclusion, I wouldn’t recommend the book as a special purchase, my own copy was a chance find in a second-hand bookshop.

### **Istanbul – Time of Tulips**

*Nezhat Bayham, Kultursanat, 2007, ISBN 0-212-451-70-70*

This sumptuous large-format publication is a must for anyone with an interest in the history of the tulip and how it is intertwined with Ottoman, and more recently Istanbul’s, social history. The forward advises, “This is our flower that we brought all the way from central Asia to Anatolia, which we placed in the flower gardens during the time of the Seljuks, which we introduced into the world in the 16th Century; this is the flower which gave its name to the reign of a sultan” and it continues rhapsodically “..the flower which hums in our melodies, that appears in our poems, in relief on stones and embroidered in rugs...”. Within 200 pages there is scholarship, history, social comment and poetry and the many exquisite paintings and illustrations that illuminate each page bring to life vividly the poetic, artistic and aesthetic contribution that the joy of tulips has given to Istanbul and the wider Turkish (and earlier Ottoman) life. I have rarely found such a well-produced and coherent exposition of a subject – it has to be seen to be believed. Accordingly, I recommend that you beg, borrow or steal a copy – but please, not mine!

*Copies are available for 40TL (£10.50) plus postage from <http://www.nadirkitap.com/istanbul-da-lale-zamani-istanbul-time-of-tulips-nevzat-bayhan-kitap7108657.html> . Other internet stockists such as ABEBooks or Amazon can supply but at a substantially higher charge.*

**Teresa Clements writes:** I was lucky enough to have a preview of this review by Frazer and ordered the book online from Nadir Kitap. I paid 40TL by Visa and soon received confirmation of the order and a request for a further 60TL for Post and Packing, which I paid. The parcel arrived, the many labels showed it had come from Istanbul via Coventry and Cleveland before delivery in Harrogate. It is a lovely book and I am delighted with it. Before I could acknowledge the delivery I had a message from Nadir Kitap to say the postage cost more than expected so I owed a further 20TL. This was true, on one label the cost was plain to see, 78.70TL. I tried in vain to pay online but without ordering a book the software wouldn’t generate a fee for P&P. Eventually, the bookseller asked me to order a pamphlet costing 1TL, which I did, and at last a further request for 20TL was generated, which I paid (by now my fourth Visa payment). When I look online I can see the book is now out of stock, maybe I bought the last copy or perhaps the 1.860kg weight is considered far too heavy for posting and the book is only available for customers calling at the shop!

# Obituary

## Peter Royles 1924-2016

I first met Peter shortly after Wendy and I returned to Yorkshire in 1969, however I knew of him several years before that. My father was the Chairman of the Northern Group of the Chrysanthemum Society and Peter was on the Committee. My father was a traditionalist with regard to his growing methods whereas Peter was willing to try something new growing his chrysanths in soilless compost. My father was always going on about Peter's 'obsession' with soilless compost and also hydroponics. However it is now in the news, 50 years later, hailed as the key to feeding the growing world population.

I never thought Peter was a very competitive man as regards showing. My only visits to chrysanthemum shows tended to be as chauffeur for my father so I never saw how successful Peter was. He won many prizes at a National level in London and Harrogate. In 1966 he even supplied 12 Large Exhibition blooms on behalf of the NCS which were flown by Qantas Airways to Hobart Tasmania for exhibition there. Unfortunately by the early 1970s the physical effort of chrysanth growing affected his health and he also became allergic to their pollen and sap. So he had to give it up, but not before he finally won the Best Vase at Harrogate Show with five 'Sam Vintner'. He was congratulated by my mother and father Jim, who said "You didn't grow them in that soil-less muck, you used John Innes and rammed them hard". Years later Peter still remembered Jim's comment when told they had been grown 'soil-less'. "Just think how good they would have been grown in John Innes and rammed hard."



Fortunately a few years earlier Peter had taken up the growing of show daffodils at the behest of another chrysanth grower George Tarry. I have already said that Peter as an exhibitor wasn't ultra competitive. But he developed a great interest in hybridising and over a period of 25 years he reckoned he produced 25,000 new flowers

**Peter was a pioneer of new growing methods. Photo: John Wainwright**

though he always said that of that large number only one was worth naming. Even then he almost missed it. It was exhibited at the Daffodil Society Annual Show at Knowle and didn't win a prize because it was too young and undeveloped. As I was breeding daffodils at that time I asked Peter if I could take it home on the Sunday to use it for pollen. I put it in a vase to develop but by the Wednesday it had become a wonderful flower so unbeknown to Peter I took it to Harrogate Spring Show and entered it in his name in the 2W-P class which it won and it was selected as the Reserve Grand Champion Bloom at the show.

While still growing chrysanthemums Peter became aware of what was to become his final love in the flower world, the Florists' Tulip. At the Harrogate Autumn Show he had noticed my father handing around brown paper bags to some of the exhibitors. When told they were tulips he asked my father if he could have some; only to be told no because he lived too far away and would never show them. Secretly Peter always believed the true answer was that Jim thought that he would grow them in soilless compost.

Fifteen years later in 1986 when my father died Peter asked me if I would let him have some bulbs, which I did. They were all rectified, broken bulbs, those infected by the tulip breaking virus. Although Peter showed the flowers, always in Beryl's name, he very quickly started hybridisation, a much longer task than with chrysanthemums and daffodils as it takes five to seven years before you get the first flower. I will never forget ten years later seeing a whole table full of Peter's seedlings on display at the Annual Show. Thanks to his efforts, together with those of John Wainwright, and access to breeder bulbs from the Hortus Bulborum, the society now has classes for twelve and nine breeders where once we struggled to get six.

It wasn't all easy. Peter struggled at first with the need for his seedlings to meet the standards required for Florists' Tulips to be show-worthy, which date back for over two hundred years. He suffered a year when the virus wiped out virtually all his stock of breeders but he started again. He always said that he would continue breeding tulips until he was a hundred. Unfortunately he didn't quite achieve that goal but he managed thirty years of tulip breeding even though that was the third flower with which he had been involved. The Tulip Society will be 210 years old next year and we are still showing two flowers that are over 200 years old. Hopefully 'Trefoil Guild', Peter's best known raising will still be grown and shown in another 200 years time.

What did I mostly admire in Peter? His fantastic memory for events and his doggedness, persistence call it what you will when others around him didn't agree with his views. He will be sorely missed!

**James Akers**

# Obituary

## Bob Taylor 1943-2015

**R**obert Taylor died December 2015 following a brief illness. Better known as Bob, he was born as a war baby in Bournemouth, moved north where he met his wife Ann, and had two children, George and Lucy.

After retiring from teaching he had more time to devote to his hobbies. A member of CAMRA, he organised his own beer festival in Baildon. He was also a keen follower of cricket, and he kept bees. But his true love was florists' flowers. Auriculas were the first that he grew and he held most of the posts at the National Auricula and Primula Society (Northern section); he was Secretary of the Northern NAPS for the last ten years. He was a stickler for standards and had many a long discussion over them. He grew edged auriculas, showing and raising very successfully. Some of his raisings were given names from the Dad's Army series, Sergeant Wilson, Corporal Jones, Godfrey and Pikey. Another of the florists' flowers he promoted was the gold laced polyanthus. One of the last plants he showed won premier plant at the spring show.



Tulips were also a favourite. He could relax in the Tulip Society. He appreciated the standards and the challenge of growing and showing. He said "what a fantastic society, you don't have to buy the bulbs, you are given them, and the pork pie at the AGM is worth the subs alone". He won many cards and a best bloom in the extra open with a fine Lord Frederick Cavendish flame, which he kindly let me have a bulb from.

Bob was a cheery character; he had time for everyone and was knowledgeable on many topics and subjects. This was reflected by there being standing room only at the chapel of rest and everyone wearing a silly hat, his last request, lightening the mood. He will be sadly missed.

**Chris Gill**

**Photo: Chris Gill**

---

## Call for submissions

The annual WNETS newsletter is dependent on the members of the Society for content. If you have a tulip-related article - whether about history, cultivation, WNETS, other tulip societies, or art - that you would like to share, please send it to **editor@tulipsociety.co.uk** for consideration for next year's issue. We request that all photos be high resolution (at least 300 dpi) to ensure they reproduce correctly in the magazine.

The deadline for contributions is 15th October 2017, shortly after the AGM.

The editor is issuing a special call-out this year for articles about seed cultivation, developing new breeders, tips for breaking breeders, or any other information that extends the advice of *Flames and Feathers*.

---

**Front Cover: Still life of tulips and other flowers in a vase, painted by Dutch Golden Age master Balthasar van der Ast (1593-1657) around 1625.**

**Back cover: Wood panelling carved with tulip blooms. Photo: Frazer Henderson**

