

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND

TULIP SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NO 31 AUTUMN 2019



Established 1836

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

OFFICERS 2019-2020

PRESIDENT The Duke of Devonshire KCVO, CBE, DL

PATRONS K N Eyre, J L Akers MBE

HON LIFE MEMBERS A Turner, P Turner

VICE PRESIDENTS Peter Emmett, Trevor Mills,
Timothy Clark, Kate Swift, Jane Green, Anna Pavord,
Sarah Akers, Anne Smales, Carole Gude,
Barbara Pickering, Malcolm Hainsworth, John Wainwright,
John Gibson, Jan Pennings, Judy Baker, Harriet Gash.

CHAIR Christopher Gill

HON SECRETARY Sarah Brooks

HON TREASURER Jason Clements

COMMITTEE J L Akers, S Brooks, J Clements, T Clements, K N Eyre,
J Gibson, C Gill, J Green, C Gude, M Hainsworth, N Tyers, J Wainwright.

EDITOR Christine Brooks

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Subscription Information: see inside back cover

SOCIETY WEBSITE: www.tulipsociety.co.uk

ARCHIVE WEBSITE: wnets.org.uk

Front Cover: A stunning trio of T. 'Flaming Parrot' grown by John and Jean Gibson won both their class and Best Vase at the RHS Harlow Carr show.

Photo: Teresa Clements

Back cover: A stained glass tulip in the windows of St Mary's church, Lastingham. Read more about this rare artwork on page 9. Photo: Penelope Dawson-Brown

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Editorial

Christine Brooks

When I accepted the role of Editor of the Newsletter, the first thing I did was to look back at previous editions to learn how to do it. I had paper copies from 2014, when I joined the Society but I was drawn to consult the Archive for earlier ones. I found an article written in 1994, 25 years ago, by John Ollerenshaw, whose obituary, sadly, can be found in this year's newsletter (page 66).

The title was 'Help the Poor Struggler'. John's style was enthusiastic but forthright when he wrote: 'Coincidental with the generous mode of giving, let the would-be donors be mean and downright nasty with any dud bulbs they may possess. Root them out and destroy them.'

Repeating the familiar mantra, which I only now fully understand and accept after 5 years of being a member, John sums up: 'but the good bulbs are never so bad as to be useless, whilst the bad ones never become good enough to be useful.'

I recommend you visit the Archive for more gems and good advice.

Chairman's Report

Christopher Gill

We start on a sad note. This year we lost two of our vice presidents, Bob Bingham and John Ollerenshaw. We also lost three friends of our Society, Fred Jackson, Sylvia Robertson and Raymond Danowski. We take comfort in the fact that they enjoyed the beauty of tulips and society matters. It was kind of James Akers to pay tribute to them at the AGM.

This year there have been a few changes to the officers of the Society. We would like to give a warm welcome to Sarah Brooks who takes over the role of Secretary. Sarah is an active member of the Society, a committee member and enthusiastic grower. Teresa Clements has stepped down from the role after working tirelessly for eleven years. We all owe her a debt of gratitude. We have a new editor, Christine Brooks, who takes over

from Tonnvane Wiswell. Christine is also an active member, keen grower and exhibitor. I look forward to the newsletter each year as it is always a joy to read. We hope they get pleasure working for the Society and enjoy their new roles. We also elected two new vice presidents, Judy Baker and Harriet Gash, both have contributed greatly to the Society.

At the AGM a point was raised – have we outgrown Primrose Hall where the annual show is held? Overcrowding has become a problem with exhibitors struggling to see the tulips. This matter needs to go to the committee for consideration. I take this as a positive. It shows the Society is thriving where many are struggling. It's a success story and a credit to all our members.

I have been told 'the more you put into something, the more you get out'. This has certainly been true of the Society. The people and places I have met and experienced this year have been fantastic. Two tulip shows, two garden visits and a wonderful trip to the Netherlands. A massive thank you to all involved with organising these events.

“The Society is thriving where many are struggling...”

At this year's annual show, it was pleasing to see a new member being successful. He won the Best Bloom in Show with a fine example of Juliet, and won the Dawson Brown trophy for the most points accrued over two separate shows; a fantastic achievement. Well done to Dave Skinner. It has got to be an inspiration to all members.

I normally plant my bulbs between bonfire night and Armistice Day. It was poignant this year as I planted on Armistice Day (2018) and heard the church bells ring to mark the end of the two minutes silence. It made me think who the tulip growers were at that time. A quick look at WNETS' online archive, which is publicly available (wnets.org.uk), shows that in 1919 a Mr N Gill won some of the trophies. I wonder if he could have been an ancestor?

I would like to thank all the people who make things happen within the Society; Committee members who meet three times a year, the officers of the Society who squirrel away all year round, caterers who produce a fantastic spread, plant and bulb sales, raffle organisers, judges with their runners, and finally all the members who make this Society thrive. They make the Society what it is. Things don't just happen, and a lot of organisation is required to make the shows the success they are.

I wish you all a successful growing season, and look forward to seeing you at the upcoming shows. Please make an effort to attend, with or without blooms. It's a great chance to catch up with fellow enthusiasts.

Secretary's Report

Teresa Clements

In recent years it has been hard to follow the opening of the AGM, which has started with some moving obituaries. The Tulip Society has occasionally used the phrase 'Looking back, moving forward' as a theme for the displays we have put on at shows and other events. It sums up how many of us will feel as we look back with affection and remember those we have lost, before we have to turn our attention to the business of the year to come.

Looking back, we have a fantastic trip to the Netherlands to remember. Over 30 Tulip Society members and friends took part. Our Vice-President, Jan Pennings, devised a programme that was varied, interesting and hugely enjoyable. Thank you, Jan! We would all choose different parts of the tour as our favourite bit and a couple of people will have lasting memories that they would prefer to forget!

The show season was packed with one show after another in quick succession. Our 184th Annual Show was well advertised in advance with articles about the society in *Gardens Illustrated*, *The Yorkshire Post* and *The Wakefield Express*. There were so many visitors that it was difficult to keep the crowds back until the judging was complete. We had a good turnout of Swedish exhibitors and visitors and welcomed them with a buffet in the hall after the show. The catering was by 'The Crocodile Sisters', who provide 'the best snap in town!' After good food and good company there was an impressive session of washing up by Anna Pavord, thank you Anna! We ran out of tea towels and Anna said the comical sight of her husband and Jason drying dishes with either end of a tablecloth kept her amused.

Moving forward, the Tulip Society can look ahead to a bright future in which we can all share. It is a remarkable survivor when other florists' societies have folded. We have about 250 members, 25 of them live overseas, and there are people from many different walks of life and social backgrounds. To see the Premier Bloom awards at our 184th Annual Show and the Small Show go to some of our oldest cultivars highlighted the success of the Society. The survival of these very special old tulips and this very special old Society is a great credit to the work of our current members and all those who have gone before us.

Having been Secretary for ten years, I have now handed over to Sarah Brooks. When I took on the role from James Akers it seemed a daunting task. James and Wendy, and Keith and Val Eyre before them, had looked after the Tulip Society for decades. Their

parents before them had been growers, exhibitors and officers of the Society. They were hard acts to follow. Over the last ten years they have provided support for me and now we will all support Sarah. I am very grateful to her for her willingness to take on the role and feel confident that she will do an excellent job.

The Secretary can only be as good as the Society he or she represents. I hope Sarah will enjoy her time as Secretary as much as I have. It has been a wonderful experience and so much of that has been due to being welcomed, befriended and supported by the many members who contribute their time and effort in a variety of ways, the growers, exhibitors, judges, the officers and committee members; volunteers for catering, writing, IT, trophy monitor and more. We are so lucky to be a part of this group of unsung heroes. Thank you to everyone for your support and your friendship, let's all keep 'looking back, moving forward', and long may that last.

Hello from the new Secretary

Sarah Brooks

From the first time I attended the Annual Show in 2013 I was captivated by English Florists' Tulips - not just by their appearance but by their origins, their influence on history, the people involved in their development, their fantastic unpredictability as flowers and the generosity of their growers both in the giving of their own advice and their bulbs. My hope as Secretary is that I can support the Society and its members so that the story of these amazing flowers will go on and they will continue to provide such a unique breadth of interest to all who encounter them.

When I was asked if I would consider becoming the Secretary of the WNETS I was both very flattered and apprehensive in equal measure. Having been a committee member for the past three years I was still only superficially aware of how much of the Society's business was organised and co-ordinated by Teresa as the Secretary, ably supported by the other committee members and officers and a band of people (not all of whom are members) who help behind the scenes at events throughout the year.

Teresa generously provided me with a list of actions called the 'Secretary's Year' and I immediately became more anxious by the enormity of the task I was considering taking on. We have been spoilt by Teresa's dedication and hard work as the Secretary of the Society for the past 10 years, not to mention the benefits accrued due to her knowledge of members' interests and the Society's recent history, her time spent representing the Society at shows and through her talks, and her links with other organisations.

One issue jumped out straight away and that was the number of things to be arranged for the shows and the AGM. These events happen largely through the quiet work of a range of people who step up throughout the year to organise all the component parts. One such person was Bob Bingham who was sorely missed at the AGM and we must thank Carole Gude and the organisers of the buffet for continuing to provide our lunch this year (and in particular locating Bob's source of pork pies). But of course someone ultimately has to be responsible for these events and this has largely fallen to Teresa over the years. Looking through the archived committee minutes (<http://wnets.org.uk/minute-books/>) I can see that periodically the Society has had a Show Secretary. The fact that this is no longer the case despite the greater provision of refreshments, sales tables etc, is a reflection of just how much the Society has relied on Teresa and this stealthy group of helpers.

I want to thank Teresa for her invaluable 'Secretary's Year' which I now have pinned up in front of me at my desk -I hope I can do it justice! My thanks also go to the members at the AGM for accepting me in this role and to those who approached me at the end of the meeting with good wishes and offers of support - they are very much appreciated. And I hope members will feel able to get in touch with queries, suggestions and share their experiences of the Society and English Florists' Tulips.

A Change of Venue for the Annual Show

At the AGM we discussed recent difficulties the Society has had with accommodating the Annual Show at Primrose Hall. Those who could remember when the Annual Show was held in Outwood Memorial Hall said it was far better suited to our needs. This prompted some swift action on behalf of the Society that resulted in an offer for us to hold the 185th Annual Show at Outwood on 9th May 2020. This was welcome news indeed and the booking has now been confirmed.

The main advantage of Outwood Memorial Hall is the layout of the rooms. There is plenty of space for the show in the main hall and next to it is a kitchen and side room where exhibitors and visitors can eat their lunch and chat without disturbing the judges. The additional small rooms will also be useful and parking should be easier.

The Annual Show has been held at Primrose Hall every year since 2010, when we had a celebratory dinner following our 175th Annual Show. Members of the Society will have fond memories of Primrose Hall and we are very grateful to the trustees and staff for being so helpful and friendly. The hall is maintained to a very high standard and the support we had with planning, setting up and clearing away after the shows could not have been bettered. We will miss our annual visit to Primrose Hall. This move is no reflection on the hall, the staff or the location, we have outgrown it as a venue and need to move on since the number of exhibitors and visitors has grown.

This move would not have been possible without the initiative and help of Margaret and Roy Mitchell. As caretakers of Wrenthorpe Village Hall they already contribute a great deal to the Society and this move was made possible by their foresight and effort. Many thanks to both of them.

A small change to awarding points at the Annual Show

The Dawson-Brown Trophy, a beautiful silver bowl, was donated to the Society by Penelope Dawson-Brown, President of the Ancient Society of York Florists. For the past two years it has been awarded to the exhibitor with most points gained in the first four sections of the ASYF Spring Show and the English classes at our Annual Show. Combining points scored at both shows was intended to encourage exhibitors to show flowers to florists' standards in York and Wakefield. However, some of the qualifying sections at York are not for florists' flowers, for example the tulip section is for Dutch tulips. It therefore seemed unfair to exclude points gained in the Dutch classes at Wakefield. In an attempt to raise the number of eligible exhibitors showing at both shows, from 2020 onwards points gained in the Dutch classes at our Annual Show can now be included in the total.



The Dawson-Brown Trophy being held by this year's winner, Dave Skinner.

Photo: Teresa Clements

A change of Officers

Did you notice the changes on our list of Officers and in the AGM minutes? Here they are again.

- Vice-Presidents: John Ollerenshaw and Bob Bingham are no longer with us. Judy Baker and Harriet Gash have been elected as Vice-Presidents. Thank you to both of them for all they do for the Society.

- Secretary: Teresa Clements has stepped down. Sarah Brooks has been elected as our new Hon. Sec. Thank you Sarah and Good Luck!

- Editor: Tonnyvane Wiswell has stepped down. Christine Brooks has been elected as our new Editor. Thank you Christine for stepping up at short notice. The newsletter is very popular with our members and readers will be delighted to know that production will continue under new watchful eyes.



Sam Barlow's tankard. Photo: Teresa Clements

that tangible link between our 184th Annual Show and the Tulip Show in Manchester 163 years before.

Historic Sam Barlow tankard revealed

At our AGM in 2017, Jonathan Seville, a distant relative of Sam Barlow, presented the Society with a splendid trophy, the Turner Memorial Prize, that Sam Barlow won in 1889. This trophy is now awarded to the person who exhibits the best Sam Barlow tulip at the Annual Show. This year, at the 184th Annual Show in May, Jonathan brought another treasure to show us. It was a solid silver tankard with the inscription: 'South Lancashire Amateur Tulip Society Manchester 3rd June 1856 PREMIER PRIZE FOR Six dissimilar Tulips won by S BARLOW ESQ. Stakehill Middleton'.

It was a thrill to hold the tankard that had been in the hands of Sam Barlow all those years ago. Many thanks to Jonathan and his wife for bringing the tankard for us to see and making

Photography project

During the 185th Annual Show in May 2020, artist John Phillips will be working with the Tulip Society to create a series of portraits of members and their tulips. John attended the show last year and created a print from some tulips kindly donated by Teresa, which is pictured here. The portrait project is non-commercial and signed copies of the portraits will be available to participants for the cost of printing plus P&P. If you would like to help with this project, discuss the idea with John, or register your interest in participating, please email John directly: john@londonprintstudio.org.uk

John is director of the [londonprintstudio](https://londonprintstudio.com) and a member of the Tulip Society. If you would like to see examples of his recent prints see <https://londonprintstudio.com/collections/vanitas>

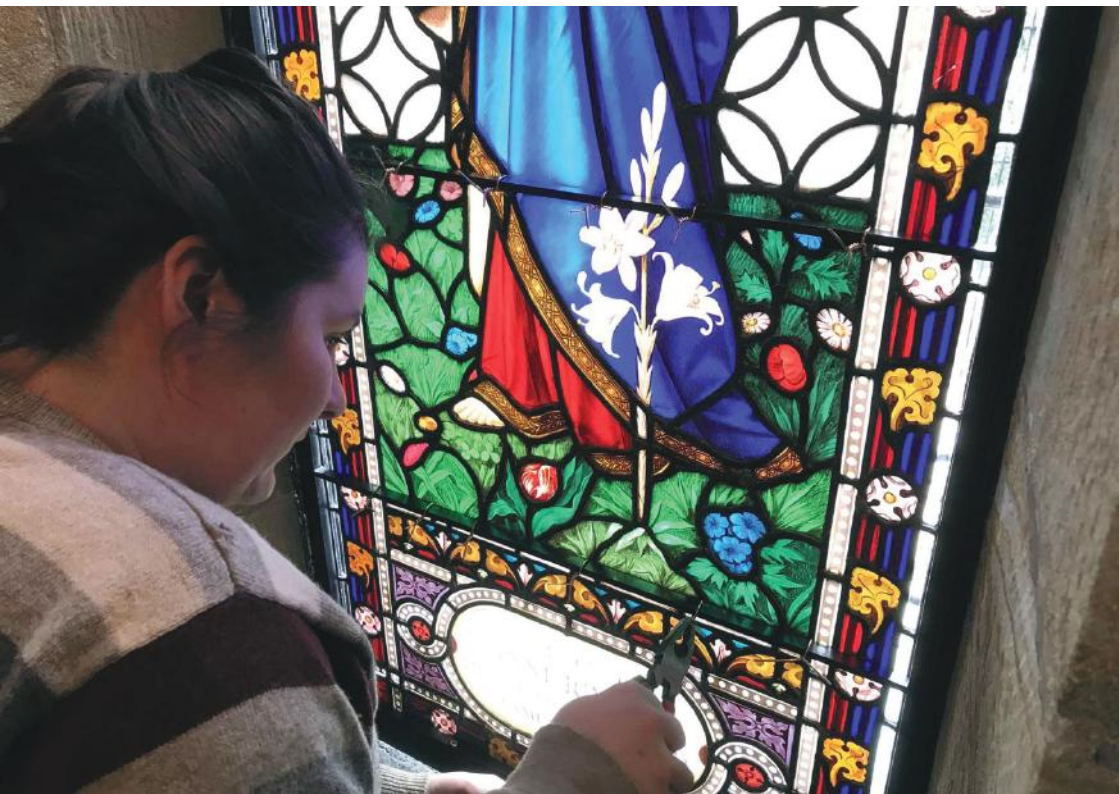


The stained-glass tulip at Lavingham Church

Earlier this year, Penelope Dawson-Brown, Chair of the Friends of Lavingham Church, sent a message about the clerestory windows of St Mary's Church, Lavingham, which is not far from where she lives. The windows were being conserved with the help of York Glaziers' Trust and Penelope had noticed a familiar sight in one of them, a broken bizarre tulip.

The tulip was at the foot of a saint in a design by a nineteenth century Italian artist Ulisse de Matteis (1827 to 1910). His work is rare in the UK and only two other churches have windows from his workshop. The windows were originally funded by the Ringer family in 1879 in memory of their daughter, who had died aged seven after choking on a plum stone at her birthday party. The windows were returned to the church in Spring and the tulip can be seen in the first window on the right when standing at the foot of the altar steps facing all five windows. No one knows why the tulip was included, whether it was a favourite of the family or a popular example of a beautiful Spring flower. The church is a fascinating place and is open daily if you would like to see the tulip.

Conserving the clerestory window at St Mary's church, Lavingham. The tulip can be seen by the figure's foot. There is a closeup of the bloom on the back cover of this issue. Photo: Penelope Dawson-Brown/York Glaziers Trust



Treasurer's Report

Statement of Accounts for Year ending 31st July 2019

Receipts		
	2019	2018
Subs & Donations		
Subscriptions	1,071.42	1,014.00
Donations	100.00	10.00
Donation at Secretary's talk	160.00	-
Donation: D Whitley	300.00	-
Trip to Netherlands	3,827.98	-
Garden Visits	716.00	250.50
Sales		
AGM	67.00	136.15
Constable Burton	151.10	108.74
Main Show	288.20	183.75
RHS Harlow Carr	38.40	2.50
Other events	36.85	56.75
Postal	270.03	92.44
Total	851.58	580.33
Bulbs		
Hortus bulb sales	0.00	145.15
Dutch bulbs	558.55	527.95
Total	558.55	580.33
AGM and Shows		
Raffle	375.00	382.00
Refreshments	382.00	390.91
Plant Sales	269.50	278.00
Vegetable Sales	278.00	0.00
Total	1,532.04	1,050.91
Grand Total	1,050.91	3,578.84

Statement of Assets	2019	2018	Change
Cash Assets			
Current Account	8,315.43	7,412.27	903.16
Cash in Hand	47.88	86.90	-39.02
Total	8,363.31	7,499.17	864.14
Other Assets			
Sales table stock	540.68	903.43	-362.75
Office Equipment	82.26	141.34	-59.08
Total	622.94	1,044.78	-421.83

Payments		
	2019	2018
Administration		
Newsletter (print and post)	745.86	950.33
Insurance	240.00	240.00
Stationery, office kit, software	65.80	43.37
Postage	212.20	111.61
Internet site services	390.64	131.87
Trip to Netherlands	3,812.71	-
Garden visits	716.00	287.50
Purchases		
Show vases from Paxton Society	0.00	250.00
WNETS Flyers & Banners	354.90	-
Sales table	117.35	24.65
Other	32.00	32.00
Total	504.25	306.65
Bulbs		
Annual distribution	139.00	199.58
Breeders from Hortus	0.00	202.66
Dutch bulbs for AGM	160.00	416.34
Total	299.00	818.58
AGM and Shows		
Hall hire, Table Hire	367.30	334.50
Food, etc	591.17	172.37
Trophies: Engraving & Purchase	158.50	886.00
Speakers' expenses	150.00	58.00
Other	0.00	91.47
Total	1,266.97	1,542.34
Operating Surplus/Deficit		
	864.14	-853.41
	9,117.57	3,578.84

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 1st Aug 2019 and have found them to be in order.*
2. This year's surplus more than offsets last year's deficit, which was largely caused by one-off costs of engraving new trophies. The surplus was considerably boosted by a very generous donation from Dwight Whitley, a US member, and also by a donation from the Wakefield Ladies Lunch club, at a talk given by the Secretary.
3. Subscription income remains steady: membership numbers a healthy 266.
4. Internet costs are up, as they include a 3-year hosting fee for the archive website.
5. The trip to Holland broke (almost exactly) even, despite the difficulties of predicting costs before the visit, though this was more good luck than shrewd financial planning!

Minutes of the AGM

5th October 2019

The meeting was held at Wrenthorpe Village Hall, starting at 11.30am.

1. Chairman's Welcoming remarks.

Chris Gill welcomed everyone to the AGM and provided an overview of what had been a busy year with two shows, a garden visit day, and the three-day visit to The Netherlands in April. Chris extended thanks to Jan Pennings for arranging such a full and varied programme for visiting members and to Jan and Teresa and Jason Clements for their efforts in organising the trip. The visit was made all the more enjoyable due to the warm welcome extended to members by their hosts.

But there was sad news too with news of the deaths of the Society's vice-presidents John Ollerenshaw and Bob Bingham (obituaries of both are in this newsletter, see pages 64-66), and friends and former members of the Society Raymond Danowski, Fred Jackson and Sylvia Robertson. James Akers spoke about their lives and connections to the Society and they were remembered during a minute's silence.

2. Apologies for absence.

23 members sent individual apologies before the AGM. The Society's Swedish members sent their best wishes. 56 members signed the attendance list and approximately 65 people were present at the meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM (published in the 2018 newsletter): that the minutes be accepted by the AGM.

Proposed - Harriet Gash; Seconded - Dan Smith. Agreed by the members' show of hands.

4. Matters Arising: none.

5. Secretary's Report - see page 4.

6. Treasurer's Report - see page 10.

7. Election of Officers.

The Chairman began by proposing Harriet Gash and Judy Baker as new Vice-Presidents to which the meeting agreed unanimously. Both have provided many years of support to the Society in different but equally beneficial ways.

Harriet has made generous donations to the Society's library, she has presented the Society with our ceremonial gavel, she has donated the Wakefield Vase which is awarded during the Society's Small Show, and she regularly represents the Society at other flower shows and events.

Judy regularly judges at the Annual Show and is a very successful grower and exhibitor having had a particularly successful year in 2015 winning nine of the Society's trophies. She is also the custodian of stocks of invaluable breeder tulips which she looks after very diligently, and generously donates many bulbs each year for distribution to members.

Two posts have become vacant at the AGM with both Teresa Clements and Tonnvane Wiswell stepping down as Secretary and Editor respectively (Tonnvane's intention to step-down had been previously noted in the 2018 newsletter). Chris thanked both for their contribution to and support of the Society and their involvement was applauded by members.

Sarah Brooks was nominated as the new Secretary: Proposed - Chris Gill; Seconded - Harriet Gash; Agreed by the members' show of hands.

Christine Brooks was nominated as the new Editor: Proposed - Chris Gill; Seconded - John Page; Agreed by the members' show of hands.

Both Chris Gill as Chairman and Jason Clements as Treasurer confirmed that they were willing to continue in post and that Richard Turpin will also continue as the Auditor of the Society's accounts, and there was no disagreement from members. The remaining Officers of the Society include the following:

President: The Duke of Devonshire KCVO CBE DL

Patrons: Mr Keith Eyre, Mr James L Akers MBE

Vice-Presidents: Mr P Emmett, Mr T Mills, Mr T Clark, Dr A K Swift, Mrs C Gude, Mrs J Green, Mrs A Pavord, Mrs A Smales, Ms S Akers, Mrs B Pickering, Mr J Wainwright, Mr M Hainsworth, Mr J Gibson, Mr Jan Pennings.

8. Committee.

Committee posts are held for three years and three committee members - Jane Green, John Wainwright and Sarah Brooks - are due for re-election this year. Jane and John are willing to continue but with Sarah's new role as Secretary a committee position has become vacant. Teresa Clements was nominated as a committee member: Proposed - John Gibson; Seconded - John S Gibson; Agreed by the members' show of hands.

The members of the committee therefore include the following: James Akers, Teresa Clements, Keith Eyre, John Gibson, Jane Green, Carole Gude, Malcolm Hainsworth, Neil Tyers, John Wainwright.

9. Show dates 2020.

The Society's 185th Annual Tulip Show will be held on Saturday 9th May 2020. The dates of several other shows and events remained unconfirmed at the time of the AGM (see Dates for Your Diary page 67 for an updated list).

10. Any Other Business

Several items of AOB were raised by members, including Dan Smith who thanked the organisers of the Dutch trip and Trevor Myers who thanked Teresa Clements for all her work in her role as Secretary.

Jan Pennings - the outgoing Chair of the RHS Bulb Committee - congratulated Teresa Clements on her recent appointment to this prestigious RHS post. Several members highlighted the links the Society has with other horticultural societies and the improved relations with the RHS over recent years.

The main subject of discussion was the Annual Show, particularly the timings of the different activities which need to take place - staging, showing, judging (preferably in peace and quiet) and lunch - and the suitability of Primrose Hall to accommodate the different activities adequately and the growing number of the public wishing to visit the show. This year publicity in advance of the show also boosted public awareness of the event and several members commented afterwards that it was difficult to move around the hall, view exhibits and 'talk tulips' once the public had been admitted. However, opening the show to the public is an important aspect of the day which reinforces the Society's historical ties with the local community and it is wonderful to see so many people take an interest.

The issue has been the subject of discussion at committee meetings this year and members will be informed as soon as possible of any changes to the format and/or location of the main show. Key issues, experiences and conundrums include the following:-

Holding the show over two days with access for the public on one day has been tried before but was not successful. It can work better when linked to a related event, either on a consecutive day or later the same day. Having a social element to the day is a good idea and the evening buffet after this year's show was enjoyed by many members and facilitated more tulip-focused discussion. But both scenarios rely on exhibitors allowing their tulips to be retained for viewing and discussion by others. Some members have long distances to travel home and evening events involve tidying up much later in the

day. Taking photos of the classes for later discussion may be useful but doesn't address members' desire to view the exhibits on the bench.

The Small Show, which is a more informal event, currently provides a better opportunity for the closer examination and discussion of individual varieties and blooms and visitors usually include several of the main tulip growers and exhibitors who are always willing to try to identify mystery varieties and provide advice to less experienced growers. There is also a reference table with good and poor examples of different English Florist Tulip varieties. However, as members travelling from further afield are more likely to attend the Annual Show there is still a need to support opportunities for discussion at this event, and part of the attraction of the Annual Show is the greater number of exhibits and the better chance of seeing the very best winning blooms.

Judging the exhibits is increasingly difficult due to the level of disturbance in the hall and the limited time between calling the classes - which typically concludes at about 12.30pm - and opening the show to the public, currently at 2.30pm. Selecting the Premier Bloom towards the end of the judging period is particularly problematic as it is more likely to be in conflict with other activities yet requires as much if not more deliberation.

The lunchtime buffet is now an eagerly-anticipated part of the Annual Show where members can relax and catch-up with each other over lunch but unfortunately Primrose Hall does not have a separate room to the main hall where members can adjourn to. In addition setting out the buffet in advance of lunchtime can only be done by restricting the space available for staging blooms. There may be some flexibility in using show tables for staging.

In terms of using the available time more efficiently suggestions have included calling the classes earlier (although this may adversely affect members travelling from afar) or opening the show to the public at a later time. The Vase Classes (mostly Dutch tulips) could be exhibited in a conventional way, possibly at a slightly earlier time, but the remaining classes which involve English Florists' Tulips would continue to be 'called'. The calling of the classes is an integral part of the Society's history and culture and there was a general consensus that it was important to retain this aspect as part of the show's proceedings.

Finally, and with some regret, one option which must be considered is to seek out an alternative venue which more appropriately suits the Society's current requirements, which are effectively a reflection of the success of the Annual Show.

The Chairman closed the meeting with thanks to all for attending.

Post-meeting - there is a new venue for the Annual Show in 2020 which will be held at the Outwood Memorial Hall, 1-2 Victoria St, Wakefield WF1 2NE (see page 6 for further information on this).

2019: The Shows

Teresa Clements

Ancient Society of York Florists

The show season started with the Ancient Society of York Florists' Spring Show at Wiggington in York on Saturday 13 April 2019. This is a significant show for members of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society because points won by exhibiting in the first four sections of this show, when added to points gained in the English classes at the Annual Show, contribute towards winning the Dawson-Brown Trophy. Some of the exhibitors who might have had entries in both shows were on the Tulip Society trip to the Netherlands so were out of the running this year but it would have been hard to beat Dave Skinner. His entries in the Auricula classes at York and his success in the English Classes at Wakefield clocked up the winning total.

There are 92 classes in Sections A to D at the York show, all the results were carefully recorded by Keith Eyre, with a back-up account from Malcolm Hainsworth, thanks to both for undertaking such a painstaking job. While Keith was judging in York, Jane Green was judging the Tulip Classes at Alnwick Spring Show. It was a busy weekend for both exhibitors and judges.



Harrogate Spring Flower Show

The Daffodil and Tulip Show at Harrogate Spring Flower Show, 25 to 28 April 2019, overlapped with the RHS Late Daffodil Show, 27 and 28 April 2019, that was held in Belfast this year. One exhibitor who did well at Harrogate was Morris Robinson, who won the Tulip Championship of Great Britain with three vases of nine tulips, *T.* 'World Peace', *T.* 'World's Favourite' and *T.* 'World's Fire'. Five other exhibitors shared the glory with a total of six of the ten exhibitors winning first prizes from fifteen classes.

A vase of *Tulipa* 'Merlot' grown by Dave Hardy attracted attention at the Belfast tulip show. Photo: Teresa Clements



Morris Robinson won the Tulip Championship of Great Britain at Harrogate Spring Flower Show with three vases of nine tulips, *T.* ‘World Peace’, *T.* ‘World’s Favourite’ and *T.* ‘World’s Fire’. Photo: James Akers

Belfast City Council Tulip Competition

This ran alongside the RHS Late Daffodil Show in a marquee next to Malone House at Barnett Demesne, as part of the city’s spring celebrations. One striking exhibit was a vase of *Tulipa* ‘Merlot’ shown by Dave Hardy, best known for his daffodils. Also eye-catching was a vase of three *Tulipa* ‘Honeymoon’, a cultivar that already has an RHS Award of Garden Merit. It was given a First Class Certificate when James Akers brought it to a meeting of the RHS Bulb Committee. We had looked forward to all the fun of the Spring Fair and to exploring the beautiful park while the judging took place but the monsoon season began early in Belfast this year and much of the site was waterlogged and inaccessible.



A stunning trio of *T.* 'Flaming Parrot' grown by John and Jean Gibson won both their class and Best Vase at the RHS Harlow Carr show. Photo: Teresa Clements

The RHS Tulip Competition

The RHS Tulip Competition was held at RHS Harlow Carr Gardens on Saturday 4 May 2019 and remained in place for people to see on the following day when a Plant Fair was held in the garden. This was the weekend of the early May Bank Holiday. Some exhibitors, who usually show a few tulips when attending mainly for the Late Daffodil Show, were missing and exhibitor numbers fell to five. It was a great credit to those few that they put on such a good show.

The judges, Keith Eyre and Jane Green, had a hard task to choose between the ten entries in Class 1 for the Walter Blom trophy (nine blooms of one cultivar in one vase) as the entries were of a high standard. John and Jean Gibson won first prize for the fourth year running. Their vase of *T.* 'Maureen' was a fine example of uniform flowers well presented to make an elegant exhibit. The same crop of *T.* 'Maureen' also provided three blooms

that won Class 3 (white tulips, 1 cultivar, three blooms in one vase). This year John and Jean had a clean sweep and also won the Best Vase prize with their exhibit in Class 12 (Parrot Tulips, 1 cultivar, three blooms in one vase), three impressive *T.* 'Flaming Parrot'. The flowers' flamboyant appearance drew appreciative comments from visitors, they looked good on the show bench and also have great potential to provide a splash of colour in the garden.

The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society's 184th Show

This was held at Primrose Hall, Horbury, Wakefield on Saturday 11th May 2019 and the Small Show was held in Wrenthorpe Village Hall, Wakefield, eight days later on Sunday 19th May 2019. The schedules had changed slightly as in recent years the flowering season has been earlier and it has become increasingly difficult to keep Dutch tulips in good condition for the Small Show, which is the last tulip show of the season. With the exception of *T.* 'Lord Stanley', which has a long flowering period, English Florists' tulips flower late in the season but they too have flowered a little earlier in the past few years. The new schedule for the Small Show has no classes for Dutch tulips and comprises eleven classes for English Florists' tulips that have bloomed too late to exhibit at the Annual Show.

Starting with Dutch tulips, Class 1 at the Annual Show, for the John Hardman Memorial Vase, requires a vase of 18 tulips of one variety. Single Late tulips are usually shown in this class and to have eighteen of show standard so late in an early season was quite a challenge. However, there were five entries of such impressive proportions that a kind volunteer had to dash off and find vases large enough to accommodate them. The winner was Colin Cochrane of Gateshead with a vase of *T.* 'Menton'.

John Gibson is awarded the Eyre Family Trophy by Timothy Clark at the Annual Show. Photo: Teresa Clements



This tulip is an old favourite for exhibition, its large egg-shaped flowers have pink petals that blend to apricot at the margins. Another vase of *T. 'Menton'* won Class 2, for the Perkin Trophy, for a vase of nine tulips of one variety.

Schedule changes led to disappointment for some exhibitors of Dutch tulips who expected to show their flowers in vases of three according to specific colours. Instead, they met with classes requiring lily-flowered, fringed, double and multi-headed cultivars. It was frustrating to see show-quality blooms that didn't reach the show-bench. They went unjudged and did not receive the merit they deserved but were enjoyed as part of colourful displays to decorate the hall. In Class 4, Vase of 3 Tulips, Parrot (One Variety), Linda Chapman's three *T. 'Caribbean Parrot'* were much admired for their beautiful flamboyant colours.

Comparative newcomer Dave Skinner had a very good day, he won the Brook Silver Challenge Cup, for most points in the Novice classes and, as mentioned above, his success at both York and Wakefield meant he also won the Dawson-Brown Trophy. His breeder tulip, *T. 'Juliet'*, was judged the best in Class 29, a Novice Class for One Breeder, and won the Dudmaston Plate for the Best Bloom in the Novice Classes. It then went on to win the Keith Eyre Trophy for the Best Breeder in the Show and the Albert Tear Memorial Trophy for the Premier Bloom in the Show. This achievement is a perfect example of the ultimate in success being possible with only one flower.

John Gibson won Class 11, for the Eyre Family Trophy, for a Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties), with twelve flowers up to his usual high standard of cultivation and staging. It was a great pleasure to everyone to see the return of John Snocken, who made a storming return to exhibiting English Florists' tulips with his winning entry in Class 12, for the Needham Memorial Cup, for a Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips (all dissimilar). The remaining fifteen prizes were distributed between nine exhibitors, which was a good spread of success and silverware.

The show was opened by Timothy Clark, who had featured on *Gardeners' World* on TV the previous evening talking of his interest in historical plants. He reminded us of another renowned plantsman, Tony Venison, who had shared his interest in English Florists' tulips over forty years ago. This year's Premier bloom, the breeder tulip, *T. 'Juliet'*, was raised by a Yorkshireman, William Willison of Whitby, in the 1850s. A notable plantsman of his time, Willison raised plants of other Genera but his two tulips, the rose 'Juliet' and the bizarre 'Sir Joseph Paxton', are of exceptional quality and can still take the top prizes over 150 years later.

The Small Show, as the name suggests, is always a quieter and less formal event than the Annual Show and attracts fewer visitors. Show statistics for both shows have remained fairly consistent over the last two years, the Small Show had 16 exhibitors both years and 167 English Florists' tulips in 2019, 181 in 2018. At the Annual Show there were



Dave Skinner's *T. 'Juliet'* was awarded the Best Breeder and Premier Bloom titles at the show, as well as several other prizes. Photo: Michael Chapman

47 exhibitors both years, 519 English Florists' tulips in 2019, 485 in 2018. At the Small Show seven different names appeared on the pink cards awarded for First Prize in each of the eleven classes so there was success for a good proportion of the exhibitors. John Wainwright won the Billy Tear Trophy for the Premier Bloom with his exhibit in Class 11, One Feathered Tulip. His lightly marked *T. 'Habit de Noce'*, was a young flower with a clean centre and fine, intensely coloured bybloemen markings around the edges of the petals. *T. 'Habit de Noce'* dates back to the late 18th Century and, like *T. 'Juliet'*, the Premier Bloom at the 184th Annual Show, it is another remarkable survivor that we can still enjoy and admire today.

The 184th Annual Show Results

11th May 2019

Vase Classes

Class 1 The John Hardman Memorial, Vase of 18 Tulips (One variety) (5): 1. Colin Cochrane (Gateshead): Menton. 2. S John Gibson (Kettering): Maureen. 3. Jackie Kendall (Heckmondike): Dordogne.

Class 2 The Perkin Trophy, Vase of 9 Tulips (One variety) (7): 1. Teresa Clements (Harrogate): Menton. 2. Jackie Kendall: Sky High. 3. Jackie Kendall: World's Expression.

Class 3 Vase of 3 tulips, Lily Flowered (One variety) (6): 1. Teresa Clements: West Point. 2. Faye Tuffrey (Chatsworth): West Point. 3. Colin Cochrane: Pretty Woman.

Class 4 Vase of 3 tulips, Parrot (One variety) (3): 1. Linda Chapman (Pickering): Caribbean Parrot. 2. Mike Garrett (Wellingborough): Amazing Parrot. 3. Teresa Clements: White Parrot.

Class 5 Vase of 3 tulips, Fringed (One variety) (4): 1. Colin Cochrane: Davenport. 2. Teresa Clements: Bulldog. 3. Linda Van Lopik (Pickering): Bulldog.

Class 6 Vase of 3 tulips, Double (One variety) (1): 1. Christine Brooks (Belper): Copper Image.

Class 7 Vase of 3 tulips, Multi-headed

(One variety): (No entries).

Class 8 Vase of 5 tulips (species or small-flowered) (3): 1. Teresa Clements: Bright Gem. 2. Lynn Gill (Southowram): Apricot Beauty. 3. Christine Brooks: Whittalii.

Class 9 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips (1): 1. Polly Nicholson (Calne): James Wild.

Class 10 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips (4): 1. Malcolm Hainsworth (York): Habit de Noce. 2. Teresa Clements: mixed. 3. Polly Nicholson: James Wild.

Open Classes

Class 11 The Eyre Family Trophy, Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties) (4): 1. S John Gibson: Utopia, Juliet, Mabel, Casius, Talisman, Cydonia, Music, Trefoil Guild, James Wild, Sam Barlow, Goldfinder, Airy. 2. Teresa Clements: Hubert Calvert, Gloria, Utopia, Juliet, Trefoil Guild, Talisman, Argyre, Wendy Akers, Sam Barlow, Lord Stanley, Lemuria, James Wild. 3. Ulf Hansson (Halmstad): Solis, Juliet, Hubert Calvert, Rosie Wainwright, Music, Albert Tear, Wendy Akers, Talisman, Jack Taylor, James Wild, Lord Stanley, Goldfinder.

Class 12 Needham Memorial Cup, Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips

(all dissimilar) (4): 1. John Snocken (Bridgnorth): Utopia fe, Julia Farnese fe, Wakefield fl, Mabel fl, Agbrigg fe, Adonis fe, Columbine fl, Rory McEwen fl, Lord Stanley fe, James Wild fe, Dr Hardy fl, Sir Joseph Paxton fl. 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Ruth Duthie fe, Julia Farnese fe, Mabel fl, Akers fe, 2 x unknown fe, Columbine fl, Bessie fl, Royal Sovereign fe, James Wild fe, Sir Joseph Paxton fl, Lord Stanley fl. 3. Chris Gill (Southowram): Mabel, Solis, Akers, Wakefield, Adonis, Halmstad, Columbine, James Wainwright, Nectar, Royal Sovereign, James Wild, Lord Stanley.

Class 13 Royles Jubilee Cup, Stand of 9 Breeders (different varieties) (4): 1. S John Gibson: Juliet, Solis, Gloria, Music, Cydonia, 906, Airy, Goldfinder, James Wild. 2. Teresa Clements: Juliet, Casius, Aonius, Argyre, Columbine, Wendy Akers, Airy, Lord Stanley, Lunae. 3. Judy Baker

(Hitcham): Solis, Mabel, Casius, Trefoil Guild, Columbine, Talisman, Mercury, Jack Taylor, Lemuria.

Class 14 Local Silver Challenge Cup, Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar) (4): 1. Chris Gill: Habit de Noce fe, Akers fe, James Wild fe, Talisman fl, Wakefield fl, Sir Joseph Paxton fl, seedling, Casius, Airy. 2. John Snocken: Adonis fe, Ruth Duthie fe, James Wild fe, Columbine fl, Wakefield fl, Tom McRae fl, Nectar, Mabel, Talisman. 3. Judy Baker: Agbrigg fe, Solis fe, Dr Hardy fe, Habit de Noce fl, Judy Baker fl, Lord Frederick Cavendish fl, James Akers, Casius, Talisman.

Class 15 Silver Challenge Cup, Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips (3): 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Mabel, Akers, Columbine, Agbrigg, Lord Stanley, James Wild. 2. Judy Baker: Juliet fe, Julia Farnese

'The Swedish Team' with Anna Pavord at the 184th Annual Show, Ulf Hansson, Katrin Wellfelt, Catharina Müller, Emilie Wellfelt, Anna Pavord, Niklas Wellfelt and Lennart Hildingsson. Photo: Teresa Clements





James Akers shows a rose tulip to Emilie Wellfelt while her sister, Amanda, looks on. Photo: Niklas Wellfelt

fl, Adonis fe, Agbrigg fl, Dr Hardy fe, James Wild. 3. John Snocken: Wakefield fe, Mabel fl, Adonis fe, Agbrigg fe, James Wild fe, Lord Stanley fl.

Class 16 The G.S.Hunter Memorial Cup, Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties) (4): 1. David Day (Ackworth): Mabel, Juliet, Wendy Akers, Lemuria, Halmstad, Goldfinder. 2. Teresa Clements: Casius, Adonis, Trefoil Guild, Music, Lord Stanley, Lemuria. 3. Judy Baker: Solis, Mabel, Trefoil Guild, Talisman, Jack Taylor, Nectar.

Class 17 Stages Cup, Pan of 3 stages: one Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (5): 1. John Snocken: 3 x Lord Stanley. 2. Chris Gill: Columbine fe, Talisman fl, James Wainwright fe. 3. Judy Baker: Sam Barlow fe, Lord Stanley fl, Airy fe.

Class 18 Silver Plate, Pan of 3 Breeders: one Bizarre, one Bybloemen, one Rose (7): 1. S John Gibson: Gloria, Columbine, James Wild. 2. Teresa Clements: Juliet, Trefoil Guild, Sam Barlow. 3. John Wainwright (Wrenthorpe): Mabel, Talisman, Lemuria.

Class 19 Three Flamed (4): 1. Chris Gill: Wakefield fl, Talisman fl, Lord Stanley fl. 2. John Snocken: Wakefield fl, Jane Eyre fl, Lord Frederick Cavendish fl. 3. Teresa Clements: Rosie Wainwright fl, Music fl, Lord Stanley fl.

Class 20 Three Feathered (2): 1. Ellie Turpin (York): Wakefield fe, Habit de Noce fe, Royal Sovereign fe. 2. Jane Green (North Ferriby): Judy Baker fe, Talisman fe, Royal Sovereign fe.

Class 21 Pair of Flamed (8): 1. James Akers (Wrenthorpe): Lord Stanley fl, Wakefield fl. 2. John Snocken: Wakefield fl, Lord Stanley fl. 3. Teresa Clements: Music fl, Lord Stanley fl.

Class 22 Pair of Feathered (5): 2. Judy Baker: James Wild fe, Mabel fe.

Class 23 One Breeder (19): 1. Ulf Hansson: Casius. 2. David Day: Goldfinder. 3. Judy Baker: Talisman.

Class 24 One Flamed (16): 1. Malcolm



A vase of *T. 'Caribbean Parrot'* grown by Linda Chapman was among the stars of the Society's Annual Show. Photo: Ulf Hansson

Hainsworth: Lord Stanley fl. 2. Chris Gill: Lord Stanley fl. 3. Natasha McEwen (Northumberland): Julia Farnese fl.

Class 25 One Feathered (7): 2. Ellie Turpin: Adonis fe.

Seedling Classes

Class 26 Seedling Cup, One Seedling Breeder or Rectified raised by the exhibitor (5): 1. Chris Gill: unnamed. 2. S John Gibson: unnamed. 3. Chris Gill: unnamed.

Class 27 Three Seedling Breeders (one from each colour class) (2): 2. S John Gib-

son: unnamed. 3. S John Gibson 2 (Kettering): unnamed.

Novice Classes

Class 28 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (4): 1. Dave Skinner (Church Fenton): Columbine, James Wild fe, Talisman fl. 2. Linda Chapman: Mabel, Akers fl, Julia Farnese fe. 3. Tracey Portway (Colchester): Juliet, Juliet? fl, rose? fe.

Class 29 One Breeder (35): 1. Dave Skinner: Juliet. 2. Mike Garrett: Goldfinder. 3. Tracey Portway: Parisii.

Class 30 One Flamed (15): 1. Gill Starkey (Craster): Talisman fl. 2. Linda Chapman: Lord Stanley fl. 3. Tracey Portway: Rory McEwen fl.

Class 31 One Feathered (8): 1. Helen Ayers (Canterbury): Wakefield fe. 2. David Day: Sir Joseph Paxton fe. 3. Dave Skinner: Casius fe.

Class 32 The Gina Roozen Cup, Pan of 3 Breeders: one Bizarre, one Bybloemen, one Rose (12): 1. Colin Cochrane: Casius, Jack Taylor, Talisman. 2. Lynda Higgs (Denby Dale): Airy, Argyre, Aonius. 3. Tracey Portway: Lemuria, Argyre, Hubert Calvert.

Extra Open Classes

Class 33 One Breeder (15): 1. Tracey Portway: Argyre. 2. Polly Nicholson: James Wild. 3. David Bonser (Craster): Bessie.

Class 34 One Flamed (10): 1. David Bonser: Lord Frederick Cavendish fl. 2. David Bonser: Lord Frederick Cavendish fl. 3. Tracey Portway: Rory McEwen fl.

Class 35 One Feathered (3): 1. Natasha McEwen: Royal Sovereign fe. 2. Don Palmer (Ashford): James Wild fe. 3. David Bonser: (rose).

Class 36 Pan of Three One Breeder, one

Ulf Hansson holds the Cochrane of Cults vase, alongside Keith Eyre.

Photo: Lennart Hildingsson



Flamed, one Feathered (2): 1. David Bonser: Casius, Mabel fl, Wakefield fe. 2. Linda Chapman: Solis, Akers fl, Akers fe.

Points Classes

F R Hunter Cup, Most points in Vase classes: Teresa Clements:

Jim Akers Memorial Goblet, Most points in Open classes: John Snocken:

Brook Silver Challenge Cup & Glass Goblet, Most points in Novice classes: Dave Skinner:

Glass Goblet, Most points in Extra Open Classes: David Bonser:

The Dawson-Brown Trophy, Most points in English classes + ASYF: Dave Skinner:

Bloom Classes

The James Akers Trophy, Best Feather in Show: Helen Ayers: Wakefield.

The Wendy Akers Trophy, Best Flame in Show: Malcolm Hainsworth: Lord Stanley.

The Keith Eyre Trophy, Best Breeder Tulip in Show: Dave Skinner: Juliet.

Peter Emmett Trophy, Best Exhibit Classes 2 - 8: Colin Cochrane: Davenport.

Cochrane of Cults Vase, Best Bloom



Malcolm Hainsworth brought a selection of English Florists' tulips that delighted visitors to the Open Gardens of Little Ouseburn on the day after the 184th Annual Show.

Photo: Ulf Hansson

Classes 23 - 25: Ulf Hansson: Casius.

The Dudmaston Plate, Best Bloom in Novice Classes 28 - 32: Dave Skinner: Juliet.

S Knowles Cup, Best Bloom in Extra Open Classes 33 - 36: Tracey Portway: Argyre.

Turner Memorial Trophy, Best Sam Barlow: David Day: Sam Barlow.

Albert Tear Memorial Trophy, Overall Premier Bloom: Dave Skinner: Juliet.

The Small Show

19th May 2019

Florists' Tulips Classes

Class 1 Stand of 9 Breeders (different varieties) (1): 2. Teresa Clements (Harrogate): Judy Baker, Juliet, Solis, Talisman, Trefoil Guild, Halmstad, Jack Taylor, Goldfinder, Arcadia.

Class 2 Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar) (3): 1. Teresa Clements: Jack Taylor, Juliet, Trefoil Guild, James Akers fl, Julia Farnese fl, N H Eyre fl, Dr Hardy fe, Mabel fe, James Wild fe. 2. James

Akers (Wrenthorpe): Sam Barlow, Utopia, James Wild, Lord Stanley fl, Wakefield fl, Columbine fl, James Wild fe, Mabel fe, Adonis fe. 3. Chris Gill (Southowram): Goldfinder, Hubert Calvert, seedling, Sir Joseph Paxton fl, Mabel fl, Talisman fl, Royal Sovereign fe, Gloria fe, Agbrigg fe.

Class 3 Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties) (1): 1. Teresa Clements: Sam Barlow, Goldfinder, Judy Baker, Juliet, Trefoil Guild, Talisman.

Class 4 Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips (3): 1. Malcolm Hainsworth (York): James Wild fl, Habit de Noce fl, Rosie Wainwright fl, Royal Sovereign fe, Agbrigg fe, Mabel fe. 2. Teresa Clements: Lord Stanley fl, Agbrigg fl, Casius fl, James Wild fe, Agbrigg fe, Mabel fe. 3. John Wainwright (Bedale): Sam Barlow fl, Columbine fl, Casius fl, Jack Taylor fe, Music fe, Akers fe.

Class 5 Pan of 3 Breeders: one Bizarre, one Bybloemen, one Rose (7): 1. Linda Chapman (Pickering): Utopia, Bessie, Jack Taylor. 2. Dave Skinner (Church Fenton): Juliet, Columbine, James Wild. 3. Teresa Clements: Juliet, Talisman, Airy.

This T. 'Talisman' grown by Teresa Clements won the Best Breeder award at the Small Show. Photo: Teresa Clements



Class 6 Pan of 3 stages: one Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (4): 1. Teresa Clements: James Wild, James Akers fl, James Akers fe. 2. David Bonser (Craster): Mabel, Wakefield fl, Wakefield fe. 3. Chris Gill: Talisman, Columbine fl, Agbrigg fe.

Class 7 Pair of Flamed (7): 1. David Bonser: Wakefield fl, James Wild fl. 2. Linda Chapman: Lord Stanley fl, unknown. 3. Teresa Clements: Rosie Wainwright fl, Lord Stanley fl.

Class 8 Pair of Feathered (6): 2. David Bonser: Habit de Noce fe, James Wild fe. 3. Sarah Brooks (Sheffield): Juliet fe, Habit de Noce? fe.

Class 9 One Breeder (19): 1. Dave Skinner: Juliet. 2. David Day (Ackworth): Mabel. 3. Sarah Brooks: Gloria.

Class 10 One Flamed (18): 1. Christine Brooks (Belper): Sir Joseph Paxton fl. 2. David Bonser: Wakefield fl. 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: James Wild fl.

Class 11 One Feathered (11): 1. John Wainwright: Habit de Noce fe. 2. Teresa Clements: Julia Farnese fe. 3. Margaret Christian (Denby Dale): Lord Frederick Cavendish fe.

Points Classes

The Wakefield Vase, Most points in Florists' Tulips classes: Teresa Clements.



John Wainwright's T. 'Habit de Noce' was named the Best Feather and Premier Bloom at the Small Show. Photo: Teresa Clements

Bloom Classes

Best Feather in Show: John Wainwright: Habit de Noce.

Best Flame in Show: Teresa Clements: James Akers.

Best Breeder Tulip in Show: Teresa Clements: Talisman.

The Billy Tear Trophy, Overall Premier Bloom: John Wainwright: Habit de Noce.

Some reflections from the Annual Show

Whear ‘as ta bin sin ah saw thee? Time flies and it has been a summer since we, the little Swedish offshoot of the Tulip Society, visited the annual show in early May 2019. A few of us had participated before, while for some of us it was the first visit to this very traditional setting. We travelled under the sheltering wings of Ulf Hansson, our most experienced gardener of English florist tulips.

Tha’s been a cooartin’ Mary Jane! Well, if not Mary Jane, we had the pleasure of having Teresa and Jason Clements host us during a couple of magnificent days in the Wakefield and Harrogate area.

Tha’s bahn t’catch thi deeath o’cowd! As we have learned, Yorkshire can be a draughty place, but we were lucky. Heavy rain was falling for a period while the show was taking place on the inside, but during the intermission, we went for a stroll and a pint, as the judges were closely examining the tulips. Skies had cleared and the sun was again shining. However, at the bottom of the street, down in the centre of the village, we stood at the crossroads, contemplating if to turn left or right, when a car passed just beside us, through a significant pool of rainwater. This was a real test of just how water repellent a tweed jacket actually is.

Then we shall ha’ to bury thee! Nevertheless, drying up and walking back to the exhibition, we perhaps did not believe we would be buried, but still, we did not have big expectations in terms of success at the show. However, we were happy to see that Ulf Hansson had done really well with his breeders as he managed to win the Cochrane of Cult’s Vase for the Best Bloom in Classes 23 to 25. Ulf’s rose breeder Casius was the best of 19 entries for One Breeder Tulip in Class 23.

Then t’worms ‘ll cum and eat thee oop. Being scrutinised by the sharp eyes of the judges at the annual show, I would guess, could feel like being eaten by worms, though it seemed all exhibitors were really happy with the occasion, meeting with old and new friends and exchanging experiences, while showing off their tulips.

Then ducks ‘ll cum and eat oop t’worms. Thus, as it seemed, any worms had all been eaten by ducks, and we were all happy and merry as the day went on.

Then we shall go an’ ate oop ducks. It had been a long and fine day at the annual show, while travelling with tulips from Sweden can be somewhat of a challenge. Some of



Niklas Wellfelt and his sisters, Emilie and Amanda, at the Annual Show: Photo: Katrin Wellfelt

the tulips, just as ourselves, were starting to look a bit “jet-lagged”. Thus, summing up the show with, if not a duck sandwich, some good food, snacks and nice socialising was really rewarding.

Then we shall all ‘ave etten thee. So, there we were, all uneaten, still alive and kicking after an exquisite day at the races in Wakefield.

That’s wheer we get us oahn back. The hospitality shown by Teresa and Jason, as well as all other friends at the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society was remarkable. We hope to be back and we will make sure to bring a hat for any additional visits to the moor (or when passing rain-soaked crossroads in Wakefield). Very best wishes to you all.

On behalf of your Swedish friends,

Niklas and Katrin Wellfelt

Garden visit: RHS Harlow Carr and Bolton Percy

Harriet Gash

Originally a hotel and spa, Harlow Carr was acquired by the Northern Horticultural Society in the 1940s because they wanted a garden to test the suitability of plants for northern English conditions. It was opened to the public in 1950. In 2001 the Northern Horticultural Society amalgamated with the Royal Horticultural Society which made additional funds available for the development of the gardens.

On our visit (21st July 2019), there were so many of us that we were divided into two groups. My group was lucky enough to have a very experienced guide whose forthright comments were most interesting.

After passing through the area devoted to educating schoolchildren about gardening, we saw the charming Edwardian garden and an attractive modern garden designed by Diarmuid Gavin. On our way down to the lake we passed a lovely display of wild orchids. The spoil from excavating the lake has been piled up in a slope behind it, which is being planted up with native trees. Betty's of Harrogate has donated 1,000 of the trees. It will be lovely in a few years' time.

After walking round the lake, we went through the children's play area to the original woodland area, which was planted up with conifers during the war. These are now being cleared to reveal the special rhododendrons planted in the past. A programme of propagation is in

**Sweet peas growing at RHS Harlow Carr.
Photo: Teresa Clements**





These early 19th century Doric columns once adorned the Spa Rooms at Harrogate. They now give a touch of the ancient world to the RHS gardens at Harlow Carr. Photo: Teresa Clements

hand as many of them are rare and may not last much longer. From the woodland we came out into the rock garden which was an early feature of the gardens and is dominated at the back by a set of pillars. These are Doric columns originally built in 1835 at the Spa Rooms in Harrogate. In this area is the exhibition building which is the original bath house from the spa. From here there was a lovely view across the stream to the double herbaceous border planted by Geoffrey Smith which leads to the original entrance to the



A bee gathers pollen from an Inula in the churchyard of All Saints at Bolton Percy. Photo: Teresa Clements

gardens. In the gardens, staff work for four days a week as part of the gardening team and one day a week as individuals, in an area in which they have a personal interest.

We then came up through the vegetable plots, the scented garden, the BUPA foliage garden (designed to be calming) to the new alpine house which has been most beautifully designed and contains plants looking at their best, whatever the season. They are selected from a collection of 2000 plants. We then passed the trial bed currently devoted to Geums and came through the Mediterranean garden to the plant centre and shop.

In the afternoon we went to Bolton Percy and heard a talk about the church, which is a most interesting building with Saxon origins. A Roman road runs through the village,



Society members explore the mediaeval timber gatehouse behind the churchyard at Bolton Percy. Photo: Teresa Clements

heading for an ancient ford across the river Wharfe so there may have been a settlement there for a very long time. In the churchyard there is a Saxon sundial and a magnificent lime tree. Behind the churchyard is an mediaeval building thought to be a gatehouse built by Augustinian canons from Nostell Priory.

Across the road is the churchyard garden with more modern graves including a war grave. It became neglected many years ago and was brought back into order by a professional gardener who lived in the village. He was helped with donations of plants from the villagers and turned it into a colourful and attractive garden with a lovely peaceful atmosphere. It is now maintained by a team of local volunteers and is a very special place.

The 2019 Dutch Trip

Teresa Clements

The Society's visit to the Netherlands was dreamt up by Jan Pennings, who devised a varied and enjoyable programme for us. Having agreed on the plan, making it happen took a little longer. Finding a hotel with rooms for 30 guests on the busiest weekend of the Dutch high season took some time and it felt like a miracle when 35 of us assembled in the right place at the right time on 11th April 2019.

Piet, our friendly coach driver, collected us at 8.00am the next morning. Our hotel was in Callantsoog, almost at the northern tip of North Holland and some distance from our main destination that day, the Keukenhof, so we needed an early start. Our first stop was at Sassenheim, where we saw floats being prepared for the flower parade the next day. As we entered the large hall we walked into a cloud of scent from hundreds of hyacinths and saw a feast of colour as we took in the elaborate floats, each one a triumph of imagination and ingenuity.

The floats are electric vehicles, huge versions of our old milk-floats, so the fantastical designs had to incorporate a place for the driver to sit, a privileged position that must be both thrilling and terrifying! The designs were clever and funny and were perfectly executed using entire plants and parts of plants for colour and texture. I especially liked the ferocious dinosaurs and cute tortoises on one float but my favourite was the phoenix, it was colourful, exotic, animated and beautifully lit.

A complete contrast to this frivolity was our next stop, HoBaHo, which is now part of the Dümme Orange family of companies. It supports its customers in the Dutch bulb and cut flower industry with sales assistance, advice, research, machinery supplies and so on. Sam van Egmond, the Commercial Director, welcomed us for coffee before his talk about the business side of tulips. He gave us an insight into growing tulips that few of us would normally see.





The investment in Research and Development was of particular interest to our Society. We heard that recent micropropagation techniques have dramatically reduced the time from raising a new tulip cultivar to having a marketable stock of bulbs. Improving and perfecting this technique could lead to it being a viable business proposition to provide a commercial micropropagation service,

This huge phoenix covered with flowers was one of the floats for the Bollenstreek flower parade. Society members got a sneak preview. Photo: Teresa Clements



Beds of tulips among the trees at the Keukenhof. Photo: Teresa Clements

which had some of us dreaming of preserving our breeder stock in this way. We saw the high-tech growing rooms and a lovely collection of tulips in the trial ground. It was hard to turn away from the tulips but we happily settled down to the splendid lunch that followed.

A very short distance away was the Keukenhof. Despite the car park and coach park being ominously full, it was still possible to find a quiet corner and lose oneself amongst the beautiful displays. The beds and borders, marquees and pavilions, shops and cafes, all were irresistibly appealing. After a long and delightful day we were all happy to sink into our seats on the coach and head back to the hotel.

The next day started with a visit to Floratuin, only a short drive from Callantsoog, where we looked at a colourful collection of tulips before being drawn towards the shop. Few were able to resist buying some summer-flowering bulbs to bring home. One of our Dutch members, Leslie Leijenhorst joined us there and drove ahead of the coach to our



The whole group with Jan and Ans Pennings and Piet, the bus driver. Photo: Lisa, Jan and Ans's Granddaughter

next venue, Tulpenland. Here, we were welcomed with coffee and cake. Some found a sheltered spot to sit in the sun, others toured the grounds following a trail that illustrated the history of tulips. A substantial lunch of savoury pancakes followed. It may be traditional to have golden syrup on a cheese pancake but, no thanks, not for me!

As we gathered for lunch, one of our group had an unfortunate accident resulting in a nasty gash at the top of his head. Oh no! What to do? Piet, our trusty coach driver, arranged for him to see a doctor and our friend Leslie was the hero of the hour and drove our casualty to his appointment to be glued back together.

There was bright sunshine as we were reunited at the Anna Paulowna garden, which was lovely, with drifts of tulips planted amongst the trees. Alas, a bitterly cold wind soon blew in and black clouds and a few snowflakes had us retreating to the warmth of the coach far sooner than we hoped or expected. Our visit to this pretty garden was curtailed.



As consolation, a warm welcome awaited us at the home of Jan and Ans Pennings. There were hot drinks and a fine selection of delicious home-made cakes. The Pennings family had worked together to provide this comforting tea. Granddaughter Lisa chatted to us in perfect English and kindly took a group photo of us in the huge shed before we left. The Pennings family are terrific hosts, they opened their home, outbuildings, garden and fields of flowers to a coachload of 35 people, ensured we were all made welcome and comfortable, provided us with refreshments and sent us home with a souvenir, a *Zantedeschia* to grow in our gardens. Jan and Ans joined us at the hotel for dinner that evening, when we said thank you and farewell. The next day, they were going on a canal trip with the family before preparing for a trip to Japan. Retirement is more demanding than being at work!



Our final visit as a group was to the Hortus Bulborum, which opened an hour earlier than usual to allow us plenty of time to look round before going our separate ways. Our second call to the Dutch medical services was suddenly upon us when the 'Dutch Trip' took on an awful new meaning for one of our group with a fall resulting in broken specs, cuts and

Above: exploring the tulip growing laboratory at HoBaHo. Below: Jan Pennings offered wonderful hospitality and gave us this *Zantedeschia* to grow back home. Photos: Teresa Clements



The beautiful Anna Paulowna Garden. It was bitterly cold there with flakes of snow in the air when we visited. Photo: Teresa Clements

bruises to the face and a hard landing on an already troublesome knee. The ambulance came and we were all willing our companion to make a speedy recovery as we walked among the tulips. To her great credit she did! After being attended to by the paramedics she courageously walked to the café for a restorative coffee. Some time later, when we had all said our goodbyes, she and her husband had a quiet walk in the garden to take in what they had missed earlier.

The Hortus Bulborum has been a significant place for the Society since English Florists' tulip bulbs were sent there in the 1960s and 1970s. It was so interesting to see it at last and to note the familiar names on the labels, James Wild, Columbine, Julia Farnese and more. It was a memorable place for more positive and agreeable reasons than the unfortunate accident. The long-standing relationship between the Society and the Hortus Bulborum, the friendly reception from our guides and the potential for future cooperation made this a good place to conclude our visit. As we said our farewells, we had new links for the future and (mainly) happy memories to take with us.

The Teylers Museum

Linda Chapman

After enjoying the Tulip Society visit to Holland, based in Callantsoog, a few of us decided to follow up on a recommendation to visit the Teylers Museum in Haarlem, where there were two exhibitions being presented, both of which featured works of botanical art.

The museum owes its existence to Pieter Teyler (1702–1778) a wealthy native of Haarlem. Teyler believed that spreading knowledge about art and science would lead to a better society. He bequeathed a fortune that made it possible to build the museum and to purchase its various collections.

The following is from the Museum website: “Teylers Museum is the best preserved 18thC public knowledge institution for the arts and sciences in the world. It has been open to the public since 1784, welcoming all those who are eager to look at objects of interest in the visual arts and sciences. It is a unique place with a remarkable atmosphere, and a visit is bound to be an unforgettable experience. The museum’s interior alone, with

The Museum’s 18th century Oval Room is packed with rare manuscripts and botanical paintings. Photo: Michael Chapman



the Oval Room as its pièce de résistance, is a truly remarkable attraction”.

During our visit we saw two major exhibitions, The first was *Bauer Collection – 200 Kinds of Green*. This exhibition was a retrospective of the Austrian botanical artists, brothers Franz and Ferdinand Bauer. The brothers’ watercolours belong to the most exceptional natural scientific works ever made. The watercolours are not only astonishingly beautiful, they are also scientifically accurate down to the finest detail.

Ferdinand Bauer (1760–1826) travelled, as a botanical artist, on a dangerous expedition to the Ottoman Empire. He also sailed on the first voyage around Australia.



The accurate application of colour is extremely important for scientific identification. However, watercolours are difficult to use during expeditions. Ferdinand developed a unique ‘colour numbering’ system to document colours whilst working in the field, later elaborating the numbered drawings. In Australia he used as many as 1,000 numbers for this purpose. The colour green had the largest number of hues, hence the title of the exhibition – 200 Kinds of Green.

A tulip painted by Maria Sybilla Merian (1647-1717), one of several female botanical artists on show. Photo: Michael Chapman

Franz Bauer (1758-1840) settled in England and became the first botanical draughtsman at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew. Franz was a pioneer in the use of the microscope to aid his illustration work. He owned as many as 15 microscopes, along with a large number of lenses. He used these optical tools to support his observations, down to the finest detail. The first scientific description of the cell nucleus was based on his drawings of orchid cells.

The second exhibition we saw was titled *A Feast of Flowers*. This included botanical art from the 17thC to the present day. It included exhibits depicting lavish bouquets, stylised floral motifs and meticulous representations of several flowers including, or specifically of, tulips. Many of the artists were women. For centuries, floral themes were among the few subjects deemed suitable for women to create.

One of the women highlighted in this exhibition was Maria Sybilla Merian (1647-1717). She was the stepdaughter of Jacob Marrel (also featured). She studied painting



A bloom painted by Herman Henstenburgh (1667-1726), master baker and botanical artist. Photo: Michael Chapman

Herman Henstenburgh (1667-1726) worked throughout his life as a baker in Hoorn. His watercolours remained something of a hobby. He was able to achieve a particular richness and intensity of colour by experimenting with pigments to perfect a new form of watercolour technique. It wasn't until several years after his death that his paintings became popular with collectors.

A more modern painting of tulips, by Anita Walsmit Sachs (1948), depicts a tulip, *Tulipa* 'Teyler', which is named after the Museum's founder.

Our visit to Teylers Museum was, due to travel commitments, relatively short. In the time available we concentrated our interest on the two botanical art exhibitions described in this article. What a wonderful experience. The Bauers' illustrations were beautiful, finely detailed watercolours of flowering plants from across the world, many being new discoveries at the time the illustrations were created. Many plates also included superb, pioneering drawings of plant anatomy, these created by observation through microscopes and lenses. They were simply stunning. Whilst walking through the museum, to arrive at the botanical exhibitions, we glimpsed what appeared to be an amazingly eclectic collection of other exhibits. The Teylers Museum would certainly be worth a more extended visit.

under Marrel's tutelage at the family's Frankfurt home. Merian's observations and illustrations of insects and plants were remarkable for their scientific quality. They are both elegant and scientifically accurate.

Elizabeth Koning (1816-1887) painted exotic plant species from Indonesia, a country she visited with her husband who was a ship's captain.

Jacob Marrel was a German painter who concentrated on still life subjects. He was also active as an art dealer in Utrecht, during the Dutch Golden age. In addition to his flower paintings he created at least six books of tulips, of which three of the originals remain intact. They were executed while he worked in Utrecht during the 1630s & 1640s, and at the time, were a valuable sales tool as he was probably also active as a merchant trading in tulip bulbs.

Where do you come from?

Jason Clements

Someone recently asked where the members of the Wakefield & North of England Society lived. It will be a surprise to nobody that membership is not confined to this area, but it got me thinking. With the UK postcodes from the membership database, and a little web magic (thank you, Bing maps), it's possible to visualise our geographical distribution (see right).

But this is not the end of the story. Of our 250 or so members/families, no less than 25 live outside the UK - the Swedish contingent is particularly strong with 13, but we are also joined by members from the Netherlands (4), Germany (3), the USA (2) and one each from Norway, Denmark and Russia.

When it comes to the show, most, but by no means all, entries do come from the North of England, but some of our most successful exhibitors travel much further. Judy Baker (Suffolk), John Snocken (Shropshire) and of course Ulf Hansson (Halmstad, Sweden) spring to mind, but they are not the only enthusiasts prepared to make a big effort to exhibit.

I have joked that we ought to be called the Wakefield and North of Europe Tulip Society, but as you can see, even this is not quite inclusive enough!



Identifying Bizarres: the tell-tale signs

Ulf Hansson

I got the chance to settle down and thoroughly examine and analyse several specimens from a large selection of bizarre tulips some years ago. I noticed that small, younger or deficient specimens can be difficult to tell apart, while mature and full-grown flowers have distinct differences.

When comparing specimens of the same cultivar there was more variation between individuals of older varieties than those of newer varieties, which appeared to be more homogeneous - no big differences but in many small details.

Many of our oldest varieties are perhaps 150 years old or more, which is very old for a tulip. I guess that over time, natural mutations in combination with selection among growers have produced some variants.

When getting bulbs of new varieties, it can be valuable to confirm that the variety you have obtained is the right one. When growing many different cultivars, correct labelling is absolutely necessary. It was only last year I discovered that three of eight Lord Stanleys actually were Sam Barlows coming from nowhere. The stock is now hopefully clean but this has motivated me to get to know the varieties better.

Experienced growers know their varieties by heart. For a beginner I recommend examining the outside base (fig. 1), the shape of the base in the cup (fig. 2), the stigma (fig. 3) and how the colour of the base borders the main colour of the petal (fig. 4).

There are many more markers to observe but these I have found to be useful when distinguishing bizarres.

Fig. 1 Stigma shape. Left: plain or smooth. Right: twisted shape

Fig. 2 Outer base. Left: good visible base. Right: compressed base

Fig. 3 Inner base (without stamens and stigma). Left: maple leaf.

Right: round shaped

Fig. 4 Border of inner base. Left: fimbriate or radiating border.

Right: airbrushed border

Art: Ulf Hansson

Fig. 1

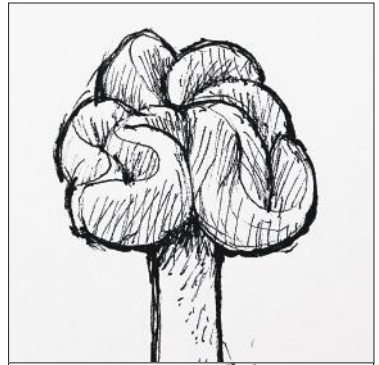
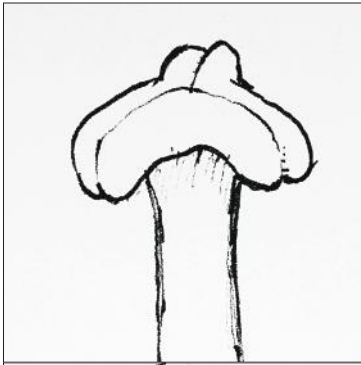


Fig. 2

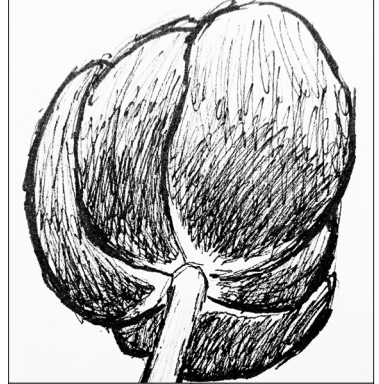
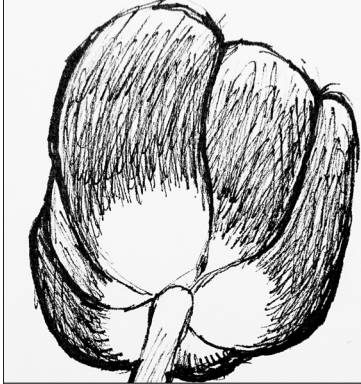


Fig. 3

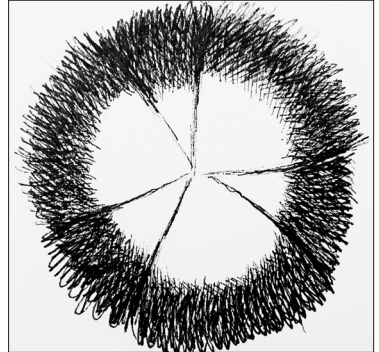
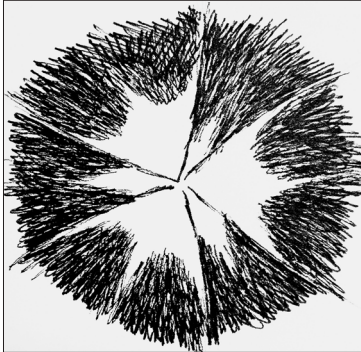
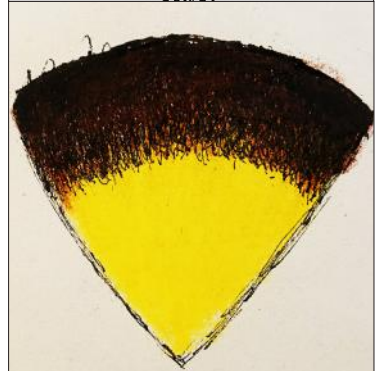
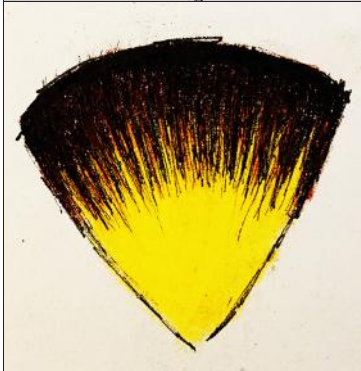


Fig. 4





Sam Barlow



Airy



James Akers



Mercury



Goldfinder



Jack



Lord Stanley



Nectar



Sam Barlow - warm red brown colour with a quite good visible yellow outside base, increases in size throughout its flowering. When young very easy to confuse with Lord Stanley.

James Akers - exterior easily confused with James Wild (not just the name) but unlike James Wild, James Akers darkens well in the late flowering and has a round, well visible, outside base.

Airy - the most purple in the group but a proper bizarre and gets more brown with age, like James Wild it has a pinched outer base. Easily opens up too much in the late days of flowering.

James Wild - often a velvet brown flower with a pinched outer base. Characteristic centre folds on the inner petals which ends up with a jack on the incurved top of the petal.

Mercury - can produce very big flowers. Opens up well with age and gets very dark, only Jack Taylor seems to be darker. The petals never fall off.

Goldfinder - an almost orange-red flower with a bright yellow base. Unmistakable!

Jack Taylor - In the early flowering the outer petals are rolled up at the edge but with age they settle out while the flower darkens properly and becomes a winner. Good visible outer base.

Lord Stanley - Unfortunately almost blossomed at this photo session. Early flowering is a good feature. A tricky one that can vary a bit. Yet almost an indispensable flower at the show.

Nectar - is easily identified by the outer base of the inner petals which is without delimitation

Lemuria - a clear maroon colour. Rounded elegant petals. It is quite different from the other bizarres.

When the blooms are laid side by side the differences become clearer. Photo: Ulf Hansson



Mercury: A big bulb gives a big flower. Properly knotty stigma that with age and size gets twisted while the flower darkens. Spectacular maple leaf base that radiates far out at the edges and in the central beam.

Airy: Like Mercury a maple leaf base but with a more airbrushed border. Generally, it produces a medium sized flower. When small it looks very similar to Mercury but the stigma is smooth and never twisted.

Jack Taylor: Can get big! Round to triangular base with a fimbriate (jagged) border. Twisted stigma! With age it turns a very dark, chocolate brown.

James Akers: Smooth large stigma. Round hexagonal base with a border similar to that of Jack Taylor but spikier. Darkens with age making the base glow even more yellow. Waxy appearance to the inside of the petals. Older flowers are unmistakable, younger exemplars are more difficult to determine but have a good visible outer base.

James Wild: Base with an air-brushed border that is more maple leaf shaped than round. It has a small, pale-yellow stigma which is never twisted but more knobby than smooth. Obtains with age a warm brown hue with a lighter pleated and wrinkled central beam. Good shaped and well coloured flowers win awards!

Sam Barlow: Unmistakable with large round petals, yellow, triangular, radiating base and a distinctive marzipan-green, twisted stigma. Stamens short and concentrated round the pistil. The petals grow bigger and become redder with age. Very robust!

Above (left-right): *T. 'Mercury'*, *T. 'Airy'* and *T. 'Jack Taylor'*. **Below (left-right):** *T. 'James Akers'*, *T. 'James Wild'* and *T. 'Sam Barlow'*. Photos: Ulf Hansson



The World Tulip Summit

Teresa Clements

The World Tulip Summit is held biennially as an opportunity to network and celebrate the special history of the tulip and its relationship with mankind over the many centuries. So says the WTS press release. I missed the summits held in Spalding in 2008, USA in 2010, Istanbul in 2013, South Korea in 2015 and Ottawa in 2017 but this year I finally made it!

The first World Tulip Summit was held in Ottawa in 2002. Anna Pavord was the keynote speaker and James Akers represented the RHS and this Society. This year, from October 14- 16, the 8th World Tulip Summit was held in The Hague. Over 85 delegates from 40 tulip parks, festivals and professional organizations from 15 countries participated.

Michel Gautier, Chair of the World Tulip Society, based in Ottawa, organizes the summits. His inspiration came from reading about the Great Tulip Conference of The Royal National Tulip Society held at the Royal Botanic Society's Gardens, Regents Park, May 12th 1897. The transcript of the three lectures given there was originally published by Barr & Sons of Covent Garden and was reprinted by the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society in 1974. It is a slim pamphlet and was available as a reference for members of the Society before our own books were written.

The lecturers were James Bentley, Rev F D Horner and Charles Needham, three notable characters within the Wakefield Society. All the delegates at the summit were given a short time to tell their 'tulip story'. Almost all were representatives of Tulip Festivals from many different countries and the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society was conspicuously different. I was there to link the past to the present and felt very privileged to be the first to speak and to be given twice as long as anyone else that session.

This Society is fortunate to have such a wealth of archive material to illustrate our view of the past. It was a pleasure to show photographs of Mr Needham standing by his tulips and accepting a prize from the Mayor; to tell of news of his demise as it was touchingly recorded in our minute books and to show photographs of the Needham Cup that is still awarded each year. In his lecture, James Bentley set out the standards for English Florists' tulips and the delegates were able to see slides of brightly coloured flowers from our recent shows that brought the old text to life.

These summits are mainly an opportunity to network and are a showcase for 'all things tulip'. There were festival organisers, photographers, gardeners, the designer of a



Teresa Clements accepts the World Tulip Anniversary award from Ibo Gulsen on behalf of the Society at the World Tulip Summit. Photo: Zao Ye/World Tulip Summit

folding tulip chair, ceramicists, artists, scientists, bulb merchants, journalists and a lady who had written a book about ‘Tilly Tulip’. She kindly gave us all a goody bag with our very own cuddly Tilly to take home. Before our dinner we had a cocktail made with Tulip Vodka and we ate slices of cooked tulip bulb as part of our starter. (It tasted a bit like liquorice root, sweet and earthy.) At the end of the meal a band marched in to play ‘Tulips from Amsterdam’ and by then everyone was in the mood to sing along!

The next day I was honoured to accept an award on behalf of our Society; with our 185th Annual Show ahead of us, the Society was awarded World Tulip Anniversary of the Year.

Two days of total tulip saturation were enough for me and I didn’t stay for the last day of the summit, when the delegates visited the Keukenhof, Leiden Botanic Garden and the Tulip Museum in Amsterdam. The whole experience was far more interesting, enjoyable and relevant to our Society than I had expected but I was glad to be back home in good time for the familiar delights of the Society’s Bulb Distribution.

Planting at the Hepworth

Katy Merrington

The Hepworth Wakefield is an award-winning art gallery set on Wakefield's historic waterfront overlooking the river Calder. The building opened in 2011 and this year we have been working with internationally renowned garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith to transform our outdoor site from unused land into a beautiful free public garden.

Tom Stuart-Smith has designed gardens all over the world, including the Queen's Jubilee Garden at Windsor Castle and the masterplan for the new RHS garden at Bridgewater. Between 1998 and 2010, he was awarded 10 gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show, three of which were 'Best in Show'.

The first phase of the new garden at the Hepworth opened to the public in August this year and I was delighted to have been appointed by the Hepworth Wakefield in May, as Cultural Gardener, to care for the garden and to help Tom's vision to flourish.

Having worked previously for historic gardens, such as Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh at Logan: Dumfries & Galloway, Longwood Gardens: Pennsylvania, USA, and Tresco Abbey Gardens on the Isles of Scilly, it is a huge privilege to be able to nurture a completely new garden from its very first moments.

Tom's garden design balances the robust urbanism of angled concrete and granite paths with 120m of Beech hedging, 52 new trees and abundant naturalistic beds of over 14,000 herbaceous perennials. The garden was designed to have year-round interest and this autumn our visitors have been amazed to see the very first autumn colour on our large, new *Quercus palustris* (pin oak) and *Rhus typhina* (staghorn sumac)

The gardens, designed by Tom Stuart-Smith have been reclaimed from waste ground.
Photo: Katy Merrington





Gardener Katy Merrington works preparing the beds for tulip bulb planting in the gardens of the Hepworth art gallery in Wakefield. Photo: The Hepworth Gallery

We are now planning for spring and have just received delivery of 9360 bulbs which will form the first phase of our bulb planting, with them going in amongst the herbaceous perennials. Myself and our benevolent team of garden volunteers are beginning by planting the larger bulbs; Daffodils, Tulips, Alliums and Lilies and over the next few years we will add another layer of smaller bulbs for the earlier spring season. Whilst it wouldn't be possible to grow such a quantity of prized English Florist's Tulips amongst our perennials, Tom was keen that for our first celebratory spring, the garden should doff its cap to the incredible tradition of tulip growing in Wakefield and his design includes a wonderful array of tulip varieties.

Tom has selected a succession of 23 cultivars to be used in small groups and interspersed them with elegant white Narcissus. Whilst many of the tulips selected are reliable, rich, single-coloured varieties, such as *T.* 'Havran' and *T.* 'Ballerina', other cultivars such as *T.* 'Grand Perfection' and *T.* 'Rems Favourite' have been chosen for their feisty flamed markings reminiscent of Dutch still-life paintings.

Do come and see the new garden and be sure to plan a visit for the springtime to see our wonderful first bulb display!

Questions and Answers

This year, the after lunch slot at the AGM was occupied by a Question and Answer session with a panel of our very own experts. Jane Green, Keith Eyre, James Akers, Jan Pennings and John Wainwright answered the questions put to them by the members.

There were some slides to remind growers and exhibitors of topics that often cause concern and these led to a more open discussion with members contributing their own queries, ideas and solutions.

The content of some of the slides dealing with the most popular questions is reproduced here. Many issues are dealt with in the 'Green Book' (*Flames and Feathers – English Florists' Tulips*) which many of us regard as the tulip growers' bible. However, some points are worth adding or reinforcing, particularly those involved in reducing the chances of breeders breaking.

- Breeders produce better flowers and bulbs when grown in good soil.
- Broken tulips often produce flowers with better markings when grown in poor soil.
- Plant Hubert Calvert and Parisii with broken bulbs, they may carry the virus without showing any signs of it.
- Offsets can be planted earlier than larger bulbs, starting in October, either in the open ground or in large containers.
- Plant from the second week in November (Lord Mayor's Day) onwards, soil temperature is important, not too warm. The cold stimulates root growth.
- Tulip bulbs stored in a warm place over Summer will make a tiny bud inside the bulb that will grow and flower the following year.

Flames & Feathers, published by the Society, is the bible for many growers. It contains a wealth of information on common issues. Copies are available from the Secretary

Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society



Flames and Feathers English Florists' Tulips

- If possible, crop rotation will improve the growing conditions for tulips. Some growers advise planting on a patch that grew potatoes previously.
- John Wainwright is experimenting with Enviromesh (1.7 mm mesh) to protect breeder tulips from aphids and thereby reduce virus infection.
- Jan Pennings has observed fewer outbreaks of ‘tulip fire’ (*Botrytis tulipae*, a fungal disease) among tulips growing in dry, windy places. Avoid planting too close, so air can circulate around the leaves. ‘Fire’ starts as small brown spots that rapidly spread. Early infections can be seen when emerging leaves twist and turn brown. Remove infected leaves as soon as possible, for advanced infections remove and destroy the whole plant.
- Many growers remove the tunic or brown ‘skin’ to help prevent disease. Tulip fire can overwinter as small black spots on the surface of the skinned bulb, these must be picked off before planting.
- Good drainage is essential for tulips and the plants will need plenty of water during the growing season.

Many thanks to our panel, who gave us some useful answers and plenty to think about

Bizarres (left) and rose tulips (right) growing in Malcolm Hainsworth’s allotment. These blooms are ready for picking and will soon head to the show bench. Photos: Malcolm Hainsworth



Q. When should I cut my tulips for showing?

A. Two or three days before the show if they are young flowers that are fully open. Clean off any greenfly, debris or pollen from the petals and keep them out of direct sunlight in a cool room.

Always pick the breeders before picking the broken flowers to avoid spreading the virus. You only need a short stem. The flower will sit on top of the beer bottle and the stem need only be long enough to take up water. The leaves and remaining stem will feed the bulb for the following year.

Q. How can I encourage immature tulips into full colour?

A. If the flowers have started to colour you can pick them a week before the show and keep them in good light in a warm room to encourage them to colour up. A warm, steamy bathroom is a good place for this.

Some exhibitors encourage their flowers to open before the show by gently blowing into them. Holding them over the teapot is probably not a good idea.

Using the teapot to get your immature flowers to open is tempting, but not recommended. The panel did not reveal how they knew...





Ulf Hansson's secret stash of blooms. Cool temperatures are key to preserving flowers when there is a gap between picking and showing. About 6° C is best. Photo: Ulf Hansson

Q. How can I hold back early flowers?

A. Early flowers last longer if they are kept cool. It is best not to have the 'fridge too cold or the petals will be damaged, 6° C or slightly above that is safest. The stems continue to grow in the 'fridge, watch they don't hit something above and crush the petals.

Q. Do I need to keep a record of what I show?

A. Yes, it is important to keep records when planting, picking and showing. You may need to trace a prize-winning flower back to the bulb it came from so you have it marked for the following year and can keep or share offsets.

Q. Which is more important, the pattern on the outside or the inside of a bloom?

A. The pattern on the outside of the petal is similar to but not the same as the pattern on the inside. The judges make their decisions when looking at the inside of the flower.

Below: The interior (left) and exterior (right) patterns of the same bloom. Judges look at the inside patterns. Photo: Teresa Clements Above right: recording is important for tracking your most successful plants for future use. Photo: Jason Ingram





Left: when your plants become dry and papery like this it is time to think of lifting the bulbs. Right: a tulip bulb with the offset bulbs it has produced. Photos: Teresa Clements

Q. When should I lift my tulip bulbs?

A. When the tops are brown and papery or have disappeared entirely.

Tulips make a new bulb every year and usually make some offset bulbs too. The old, original, bulb shrivels to a small husk as the tulip grows and is replaced by a completely new bulb. The new bulb should come away cleanly from the dry stem and the remains of the old bulb.

9. Q. How should I store my tulip bulbs?

A. The bulbs need to be kept warm and dry. Brown paper bags and nets allow water to evaporate and air to circulate around the bulbs. This helps to deter rotting and the growth of moulds. It is important to keep the bulbs in a place that is free from rodents and slugs. Both can destroy your stock without you noticing until it is too late.

Q. Do I need to protect my plants?

You may need to provide protection for growing plants and flowers. Netting is often recommended to keep off pests.

Above right: renowned grower Albert Tear used a vast timber structure with nets to protect his prize blooms. Photo: Society Archives
Below right: a smaller and more modern version in John Snocken's gardens. Photo: John Snocken



Timothy Clark remembers

I had joined the Wakefield Society because of the Picotee tulip of my great grandmother. Keith had shown me how to grow tulips. About 1975 Tony Venison, the then Gardening Editor of *Country Life*, wrote an article asking where are these plants now.

After about a fortnight I contacted him and offered them to him. He visited my garden, and took an interest in the plants that I had preserved during the previous twenty years, when I corresponded with Gladys Peto, Margery Fish and Mary McMurtrie. He was surprised that I had already been in contact with Keith and James, about the Picotee tulip which I had grown since a child.

Tony Venison then asked me to write on Eleanour Sinclair Rohde, who I never met but I had an acquaintance with her great niece. That wrote itself. She remains one hundred years later the greatest and best garden historian this country has ever produced. It was a success in *Country Life*.

Tony Venison then visited my garden to see the tulips. I was spending time growing and increasing the thirty or so Victorian varieties which Keith had sent me some ten years earlier, rather than journalism. After some consideration he allowed me to write on the English Florist Tulip. This article remains in the archive of the Society.

I had two requests for bulbs, but it eventually got picked up in a dentist's waiting room by a producer of *Gardeners' World*. This led to the feature that was presented by Stefan Buczacki. It was based in my garden using my tulips, while Keith and Jane Eyre did the commentary. I remember the producer sighing "Jane Eyre, if only I had a name like that." This feature nominated Wendy Akers as the Secretary of the Society. It led to over 200 requests to join and keep the Society alive. James, Wendy, Keith and Val worked hard to ensure no one was missed. That year I had an exceptional harvest of bulbs and we were able to supply everyone with at least two bulbs. It all seems long ago now.

The end result of the effort that Keith, Val, James and Wendy put into making the society work remains a legacy forty years on and with so many exhibitors drawn from such a wide area in the country, it means that the future looks secure for the next generation.

Living in Soham, where the people lost their self respect at the time of the murders, my lasting memory of opening the Show this Spring was of a group of people who are confident and secure in their future.

Timothy Clark

Book Review

Tulips, beautiful varieties for home and garden

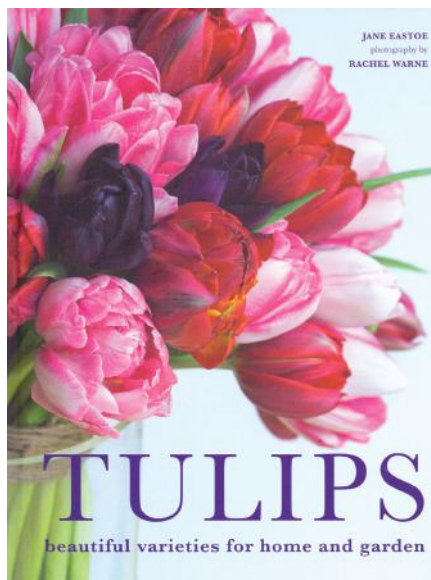
Jane Eastoe, photography by Rachel Warne

Published by Pavilion

ISBN 978-1-911624-28-8

How could I ignore a book with a cover like this? It was irresistible and I bought it. The success of the book will depend on the undoubted appeal of the photography as the content starts with a brief summary of already familiar points in the history of the tulip and ends with a short section on cultivation. In between there are artistic photographic portraits of individual named cultivars with a written description for each, rather like a luxurious catalogue. You might not learn much as a reader but you will probably enjoy looking at the luscious pictures.

Teresa Clements



The RHS Daffodil, Snowdrop and Tulip Yearbook, 2019

This year there has been a delay in producing the *RHS Daffodil, Snowdrop and Tulip Yearbook* which means the publication date will also be a little later than usual. There are always plenty of interesting articles to enjoy and the good news is that there is no price increase, so please order your copy now.

If you wish to obtain a copy of the 2019 RHS yearbook, please send a cheque for the discounted price of £10.00 (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, you can pay by PayPal, to John's email address, gibbo.john@ntlworld.com. which overseas readers in particular may find is more convenient. PayPal payments are £10 for delivery to UK addresses. To EU addresses it costs £14.70 and to the rest of the world the price is £17.30.

Obituary:

Bob Bingham

Sadly, on July 13th 2019 our good friend and benefactor, Bob Bingham, died at the age of 74 after an ongoing period of ill health. He was a longstanding member of the Society who was made a Vice President in 1998/1999 in recognition of all the hard work he put into the Show and AGM each year and his extreme generosity in supplying our lunches with meats and universally acclaimed pork pies.

Bob worked tirelessly for the benefit of our society. He was an organised, tidy man who liked to have things done properly, and would have chairs and tables set out ready for others to get on with their jobs. It was hard to be at the hall before Bob. When his butcher seemed a bit slow in slicing the meats, Bob just bought his own machine and got on with it himself! Twice a year I would ring him and tentatively ask about the provisions, and would simply be told “no problem, everything’s sorted”. Over the years, he became a major part of our catering team, gently organising us, but with no sexist ideas about who did what – he was quite happy to wash up. The only time I saw him sitting down was when his legs were bothering him in the latter years, and I have a strong memory of Bob and my mother, Vera, at the last AGM they both attended, sitting in a corner and talking of gardens and plants and food as well as their arthritic joints! This was after all the work was done of course, and we were waiting for lunch to begin.

In 2015, the committee decided to ask Bob to open the show, and although reluctant to speak, he was obviously tickled pink to be asked, and presented the trophies in his own inimitable style.

This was the Bob we knew, but the five members of the Society who were privileged to attend his funeral gained an insight into the man everyone else knew. Bob was born in the village of Notton, near Wakefield, and after leaving school at 14 he became a farmer until his early 20s, then went to British Beef in Wakefield, followed by Weddle Swift, meat wholesalers, working as a meat porter until his retirement. He married Ann in 1978 and they had a son,

Bob was as skilled in the kitchen as he was in the garden. Pies were a speciality. Photo: Teresa Clements





In 2015 Bob stepped out from his usual behind the scenes roles when he was chosen to open the Annual Show and give out the prizes, which he enjoyed immensely. Here he awards the Needham Memorial Cup to John Snocken. Photo: James Akers

Lee, of whom he was immensely proud. Which of us knew that he loved Elvis, Rock ‘n’ Roll, country music, dancing - a good mover and light on his feet for a large man - played cricket as wicket keeper, supported Wakefield Trinity and was a secret Manchester United Fan? The family described Bob as “a man with a heart as big as his belly”, but we did know that. Always willing to be of use, he went to help out a mate at the Sunday market in Thorsby, and carried on for 15 years. Bob had green fingers, keeping an immaculate garden and also tending three allotments. After retirement, he maintained a high number of gardens for others too. Above all, Bob was a family man who loved his caravan holidays and walking his dogs. He was loyal to his friends, and a keen member of the Wakefield Paxton Society as well as our own.

Bob Bingham was an original and a gentleman. We shall miss him greatly, and not just for the pies.

Carole Gude

Obituary:

John Ollerenshaw

John died at home in Hyde after a long illness, he was 97 years of age. He was a quiet man who I suspect was often deep in thought yet he was never afraid to add his opinion to any conversation regarding florist flowers.

John joined the Tulip Society in 1971 when he wrote to Hubert Calvert enclosing a Postal Order for 10 shillings to pay for his membership. He asked for a few bulbs and Hubert passed that request to Mr W.D.Tear who provided them for him. His name appears on the exhibitor lists in the 1980s and he had moderate success with Dutch and English tulips but the trophies always eluded him.

He contributed several items for the newsletter during the 1990s. He commented on Tulip Breaking Virus, being selective about which bulbs to keep and which to discard and gave advice on growing tulips from seed. He was a valued member of the Society and became a Vice-President in 1997. He provided numerous bulbs for the society's distribution, indeed when growing became too much for him he donated his complete collection of bulbs to the Society in 2004.

He was a natural florist and also joined the National Auricula and Primula Society (North) where he was a Committee member and Secretary for a few years. His first attempt at showing Auriculas was in 1969, when he won the first three classes in the novice section which in those days had the exotic title of Maiden Growers Section. I wonder what our modern Politically Correct agitators would make of that!!! Eventually he specialised in Gold Laced Polyanthus and along with Mr Calvert was instrumental in keeping and improving that type of plant.

J.N.Gibson

Art: Rory McEwen



Dates for your Diary

The Ancient Society of York Florists' Spring Show: Saturday 11 April 2020.
Recreation Hall, The Village, Wigginton, York. YO32 2LL, with 13 tulip classes.
Points won in any of the Sections A, B, C and D of this show will count towards winning the Dawson-Brown Trophy when added to points won at the WNETS Annual Tulip Show. Staging Friday, 5 - 10pm, Saturday, 8 - 10am. Viewing, Saturday, 11am - 3pm. For more details: <http://www.ancientsocietyofyorkflorists.co.uk>

Alnwick Spring Show: Saturday 18 April 2020.
Willowburn Sports and Leisure Centre NE66 2JH (just off the A1). Further info: see the website <http://alnwicksspringshow.uk> email: gmstarkey@virgin.net

Harrogate Spring Flower Show: Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 April 2020. The Daffodil Society has several classes for tulips as part of the daffodil show. Further info: Chris Bone, 7 Royds Close, New Mill, Holmfirth, HD9 1LR. email: cbone70@btinternet.com

The RHS Late Daffodil and Tulip Competition: Saturday and Sunday 2 & 3 May 2020. 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. For further information see the website, <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/exhibit-at-a-show/rhs-horticultural-competitions> or contact the Horticultural Competitions Manager, Georgina Barter, on 020 7821 3142 or email: georginabarter@rhs.org.uk to register as an exhibitor or request a schedule by post.

Constable Burton Hall Tulip Festival: Saturday and Sunday 2 & 3 May 2020.
There will be an extended programme of talks, tours and teas in the following week, see the website for further details, <http://www.constableburton.com> Constable Burton Hall, Leyburn, North Yorkshire. DL8 5LJ.

The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society's 185th Annual Tulip Show: Saturday 9 May 2020. Outwood Memorial Hall, 1-2 Victoria St, Wakefield WF1 2NE.**
Staging 10am to 12noon. The classes will be called at 12 noon prompt and will be followed immediately by judging. Open to the public 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Note change of venue

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

Date and location to be confirmed nearer the time. Please remember to let the Secretary know if your tulips look likely to flower much earlier than the date of the 185th Annual Show or if they are going to be late to flower. This information is essential to help the committee decide on the date and location of the Small Show.

The AGM: Saturday 3 October 2020. Wrenthorpe Village Hall, Wakefield. WF2 0NE. Speaker to be announced.

Burnby Hall Gardens Tulip Festival: Late-April to Mid-May 2020. Check the website for exact dates nearer the time, <http://www.burnbyhallgardens.com>
Burnby Hall Gardens Pocklington. YO42 2QF Tel. 01759 307125

Keukenhof: dates for 2020 from 21 March to 10 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



Choolips!

Lucy, my Great-Niece, completed a list of her favourite flowers earlier this year when she was seven years old. I am not sure I could have named seven flowers at the age of seven and was interested to see her list. Being number five on a list of seven isn't the best position but there is already some promise of better things to come. With a little more attention to her spelling, she could be a botanist in the making!

Teresa Clements

Subscription payments made easy....

A reminder that the annual subscription remains, as it has for many years, £5 - remarkably good value, we hope you agree! (There is an additional one-off joining fee of £5 for new members.) The drawback is that it's easy to forget to pay if you are unable to attend the Annual Show in May, which is the traditional due date. If you haven't done so already, why not set up a Standing Order with your bank to make an annual payment? May 1st each year is a good date for this. You can then relax in the knowledge that your membership will always be current, but you can cancel at any time should you change your mind.

This also works for the Society as it saves paper work and postage - as does payment by online bank transfer if that is your preference.

In either case, these are the Society's bank details, and don't forget to include your name as reference:

Bank: Yorkshire Bank (Northgate, Wakefield),

Sort Code: 05-09-64, **Account Number:** 12273858,

Account Name: Wakefield & North of England Tulip Society

We are sometimes asked if we can take payment by Direct Debit; alas, the answer is no.

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 18th October 2020, shortly after the AGM.

