

**WAKEFIELD
&
NORTH OF ENGLAND
TULIP SOCIETY**

ESTABLISHED 1836



**NEWSLETTER
NO 19
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WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

OFFICERS 2007-2008

PRESIDENT	The Duke of Devonshire CBE
PATRONS	V Roozen Esq. K N Eyre
HON LIFE MEMBERS	Mrs A Turner, P Turner
VICE PRESIDENTS	P Emmett, T Mills, J L Akers, C Marsh, T Clark, J Ollerenshaw, Dr A K Swift, Mrs J Green. Bob Bingham, Anna Pavord, Wendy Akers, Sarah Akers, Anne Smales, Carole Gude.
CHAIRMAN	M Hainsworth
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HON TREASURER	Mr J Clements Harrogate North Yorks Telephone email:
SUBSCRIPTION SECRETARY	Mrs T. Clements (details as above)
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EDITOR	Mrs W M Akers (acting)
SOCIETY WEBSITE	www.tulipsociety.co.uk

Annual Subscriptions – Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2008 become due on the date of the Annual Show May 2008 and are for the sum of £5 per Member, £6 for Family Membership and £50 for Life Membership

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Chairman's Report

Because of my defective memory my report must begin with our recent AGM on 6 October 2007 which was as usual thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

We had looked forward to hearing John Snocken speak and it was both a shock and a disappointment to learn that his venerable Land Rover had broken down on its by now familiar journey north. We can look forward to having him at our next AGM. Our Society is extremely fortunate in having its own deus ex p.c. machina. James Akers offered a finely illustrated talk "never before heard in the provinces" – (not the title rather, how it was advertised).

The auction of prints remaining from the Sculpture Park "Old Flames" exhibition together with a painting donated by Margaret Cooper was an opportunity for the discerning bargain hunter. There are still some catalogues left from this brilliant exhibition.

Ivor Fox's offer of five free mystery bulbs was gratefully taken up and his range of species tulips contrasted with the Dutch tulip bulbs sold for the Society by Barbara Pickering.

We were sorry to lose the consistently solid and loyal support of Peter and Anne Turner who have had to withdraw from active membership due to illness. Their efforts were always appreciated and we were pleased to wish them well and offer them life membership of the Society. It is always a sadness to lose members but we are equally always grateful to accept offers of help and particularly so to Teresa and Jason Clements who have taken over the roles of membership secretary and treasurer respectively. Teresa had a substantial display of pot grown tulips in late November! Perhaps she will share her secrets with us. Wendy Akers has heroically agreed to edit our Newsletter. I am so thankful for the efforts of the committee and all those other members with such busy lives but who find time to help so we can all share in the pleasure of the success of the 2007 show. The growing numbers of novice entrants is sufficient cause for satisfaction and we welcome this encouraging sign. All agree that the Show is a pretty hectic day but we will try to make more time available to assist newer members at their early shows. I still seek guidance on Show day and it is a further pleasing feature of our Society that help cascades down from more experienced members.

At the last AGM I undertook to visit the gardens of Peter and Beryl Royles in Hawarden and Tom and Judy Baker in Hitcham. Both these members have made such an important contribution to the Society in both successfully showing and augmenting our stocks, in Peter's case by the raising of new varieties. Despite the scrupulous care Peter takes, some breaking had occurred in his exclusively breeder collection – further evidence, were it needed, of the determined persistence of the

virus. His carefully shaded blooms enjoy as much protection as is practicable. They deserve it for they offered an astonishing range of colours with pleasing shape. The raising and selecting of seedlings is such a demanding task. It was a wonderful treat to see his lovely blooms on which so much hope rests.

We managed to find the Baker's home in Suffolk after a single but serious navigational error. There were a few less serious ones too but it was worth the effort. The Baker's garden displayed a plantswoman's hand and strong hints of the tulip interest. These turned out to include refugees from Judy's English Florists' beds which lie in a secret location in Stowmarket. We were taken to this urban allotment to see her neat beds arranged in long rows following the contours of the land. As had Peter, Judy claimed that her blooms were well over but there was plenty of evidence of her extensive and varied collection. As she walked amongst them her enthusiasm, skill and affection were all so obvious and I wondered if those many members who receive her bulbs could have any notion of her hard and systematic efforts. Due to my travel anxiety I declined Judy's kind offer of a delicious casserole, the only thing I regret of our trip south.

The more I hear of the visit to Chatsworth the more I envy those who went on it. Thanks to Joanna Spencer and our President the Duke of Devonshire, those who were wise enough to take advantage of this rare opportunity enjoyed a very special occasion. An account of it follows in the Newsletter.

A further regret was my failure to follow up Steve Thompson's suggestion that it may be possible to identify varieties from leaf characteristics. I need all the help I can get in identifying some of my blooms. I should have begun much earlier in the season. I had my beds prepared early this year but I've still not completed my planting – I'm ashamed of myself by still look forward to the coming season.

Malcolm Hainsworth

Editorial

Finally, the 2007 Newsletter is published, along with a huge apology for its lateness. We have kept Autumn 2007 on the front rather than miss a year, or (hopefully) have two issues in 2008.

When we lost (so to speak) our Editor Anne Turner last spring it was a great blow. Anne had cheerfully taken on the job but had to give it up, along with her Treasurer's position, She had produced some excellent Newsletters (and sets of accounts), and happily we were able to fill her Treasurer's shoes. Not so the Editorship. I took it on in an 'acting' capacity but had not bargained for the deterioration in eyesight due to a complication of diabetes. I immediately started on extensive Argon laser treatment to save my sight - which is still ongoing. At present I can only manage to read wearing +4 spectacles and a magnifying glass. I cannot see the computer screen clearly or the keyboard. At the AGM several people offered to help (thank you all) but in the end much of the load fell on James.

I would like to thank Barbara and Jeff Pickering for their help in proof reading this issue. However often one reads items that you have typed personally, errors are always missed, and a fresh eye immediately spots them. Heartfelt thanks to all the contributors who make the newsletter what it is, please keep sending your articles, no matter how short, for the 2008 newsletter . If you can include photographs even better, electronic are easier to include. *(Please send the photographs as individual images rather than including them in the document, although you can indicate where you would prefer them to be included - JLA, the techie)*

Spalding is hosting the World Tulip Summit in 2008 and the details are on page 34. The Society has been asked to play a part and we hope to have some early blooms to display.

Peter Royles explains his reasons for writing his life story which came in instalments and turned out to be a book of forty pages. It is utterly honest, charming and unputdownable. Including it in instalments was an option but would take a fair amount of Newsletters to complete. With Peter's permission we intend to produce it as a book, a copy of which will become part of the Society's library. We have included a few extracts to whet your appetite.

I would like to add a personal note on the subject of Anne and Peter Turner. Neither has enjoyed the best of health recently but for the whole of their involvement with the Society they have been inspirational. Always there to lend a hand, always cheerful, wonderful exhibitors and supporters at Harrogate. After committee meetings in Barnsley most of us were home in twenty minutes. Malcolm and Keith had a bit of a trek but nothing compared to their weary journey late at night. We shall miss them.

Wendy Akers

AGM Minutes 2007

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society 2007.

The meeting was held at Wrenthorpe Village Hall on 6 October 2007

1. **Chairman's welcoming remarks.** The chairman welcomed all, particularly new members and those who had travelled long distances, particularly Harriet Warden from Scotland and Maedythe Martin from Canada. He informed the meeting that John Snocken, our speaker, had broken down on the way and therefore the secretary, James Akers, would be standing-in after lunch,
2. **Apologies.** There were too many to read out, but included the President the Duke of Devonshire and Anna Pavord, There was a good attendance of around 55-60.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.** The minutes were read and accepted by the meeting. There were two matters arising. Firstly the chairman said that progress had been made in hiving off some of the work of the secretary and that would be confirmed when election of officers took place later in the meeting. Secondly the chairman said that he had made two encouraging visits to members' gardens to see florists' tulips. The visits to Peter and Beryl Royles and Judy Baker had been fascinating.
4. **Secretary's report.** This covered the various events that had taken place throughout the year and would be printed in full in the Newsletter.
5. **Treasurer's report.** The secretary gave the report after informing the meeting of the resignation of the treasurer for personal reasons. The report would be printed in the newsletter.
6. **Election of Officers.** The following were confirmed:
 - President: The Duke of Devonshire
 - Patrons: Mr Victor Roozen, Mr Keith Eyre
 - Vice Presidents: Peter Emmett, Trevor Mills, James Akers, Timothy Clark, John Ollerenshaw, Katherine Swift, Jane Green, Bob Bingham, Anna Pavord, Wendy Akers, Anne Smales, Sarah Wainwright and Carole Gude.
 - Chairman: Malcolm Hainsworth, Secretary: James Akers, Treasurer: Jason Clements, Membership Secretary: Teresa Clements,

Editor (2007 only): Wendy Akers, Auditor : Ivor Fox
Committee: Unchanged

7. Show Dates 2007

Harrogate Spring Show: 24-27 April 2008
RHS Tulip Competition at Wisley: 29/30 April; 2008
Constable Burton: not yet fixed
Tulip Summit (Spalding): 1/2 May 2008
The Annual Show: 10 May 2008
AGM: 4 October 2008
York Show: TBA

8. Any other business.

Harriet Warden asked if addresses could be made available for the new officers

Secretary's Report

James Akers

Correspondence

A large number of letters had been received and responded to during the year, and four were brought to the attention of the meeting.

A letter from Gladys Hopkins, informing the Society of the death of her husband Dennis, a Vice-President, who had been the Head Gardener at Chatsworth.

A letter from Trevor Mills informing us of a letter he had received from Pieter Roozen, the son of a patron of the Society. Victor was doing fine after the stroke that he suffered a few years ago.

A letter from the Head Gardener at Chatsworth asking if the Duke could purchase a collection of Florists' Tulips. This had been rejected but we would **give** him a collection. Hopefully 200 bulbs would be sent this year and a similar number in 2008.

A letter from Anne and Peter Turner resigning from positions on the Committee and as Officers of the Society for personal reasons. The meeting approved a proposition that they should be made Honorary Life Members in recognition of their service to the Society.

Meetings

Two meetings of the Committee had been held during the year, one before the Annual Show, and a second prior to the AGM.

Change of Responsibilities

In line with the discussion at the 2006 AGM, changes had been made during the year which would reduce the work load of the secretary and share this among members of the Committee. The following committee members would take responsibilities as follows:-

Teresa Clements - Membership Secretary

Jason Clements - Treasurer

Marguerite Murray - Library, pictures and display boards

Barbara Pickering - Trophies and Engraving

Carole Gude - Sales table

John Wainwright - Web site

Wendy Akers - Editor

The other committee members would undertake tasks as required.

Non- committee members with specific responsibilities are:-

Joanna Spencer - Garden visits

Tom Baker - Show Secretary

Events

Annual Show - Had been amazing despite the season. The committee were very encouraged by the number of competitors and the quality of their blooms. An attempt would be made to further encourage these showing members in the bulb distribution.

Harrogate Spring Show - A good display of flowers. There had been a problem with the organisers with regard to access of members to man the stand but this had been resolved.

Constable Burton - Went very well with the garden tulips looking very good.

York Show - Mainly supported by members of this society but we would continue with the format.

Archiving

The society had been concerned for a number of years about the quantity of paperwork which had built up over the years, and its safety. The Chairman had undertaken to explore the possibility of documents etc being held by an external archivist. He presented to the meeting a proposal that these should be held at York University. The meeting discussed various points of cost, accessibility, updating etc and it was agreed that the committee would examine the proposal in more detail and report to the AGM in 2008.

Treasurer's Report

After the resignation of the Treasurer in April, the Secretary had taken over the duties temporarily. The Accounts, un-audited, are shown later.

It was not sensible to make a comparison between this year and last because of the large amounts of income and increase in membership numbers due to the Exhibition held at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park last year. For example, there had been 80-90 new members then, compared to just eight this year. However historically, only 3 in every 100 new members survives more than 5 years, and the majority pay once or twice only.

The engraving costs were significantly higher, but as a result of Barbara Pickering's efforts all the trophies were now fully engraved up to the previous year and the Royles' Jubilee Cup had been re-engraved and a new base provided. This Trophy (*shown right in its original form*) is a Chrysanthemum trophy which was won outright by Peter Royles and presented by Peter and Beryl to be awarded to the winner of a class for nine breeders.

The Newsletter costs were higher because of the inclusion of more colour pictures.

The profit on the Annual show was down because of our inability to use the kitchen at Normanton Community Centre, however it was hoped that this facility would be available in 2008.

The acting treasurer suggested that the Annual Subscription should remain at its current level and would be reviewed by our new treasurer Jason Clements in 2008. The meeting agreed.



172nd Annual Show

There was a great deal of trepidation among the members of the committee in the weeks prior to the show at Normanton Community Centre on 12 May. Might this be the first time ever that all the flowers would have gone over before the show date? I personally had started putting them in the refrigerator two weeks before the day of the show and was very apprehensive that any would survive as previously seven days seemed to be the maximum period that most would survive. However, thanks to the skills of our members an excellent show resulted.

Vase Classes

Although the number of entries in the Dutch classes was reduced, the quality was good with three different winners of the four classes. Pat King won the vase of 18 with 'Menton' and her vase of 'Maureen' which won the 12 bloom class was also judged the best vase in the section. The classes for florists' tulips shown in vases have never had many entries but our chairman Malcolm Hainsworth always gives them his support and his vase of twelve 'Julia Farnese' was outstanding. This section was judged by Keith Eyre.

Class 1 The John Hardman Memorial Class Vase of 18 Tulips (One variety not English Florist) (2) 1. Pat King (Colne): Menton 2. Chris Bone (New Mill): City of Vancouver

Class 2 Vase of 12 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (6) 1. Pat King: Maureen 2. Melvyn King (Colne): World's Favourite 3. Pat King: Jan Reus

Class 3 Vase of 6 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (11) 1. Wendy Akers (Wrenthorpe): Menton 2. Teresa Clements (Harrogate): City of Vancouver 3. Pat King: Atlantis

Class 4 Vase of 3 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (16) 1. James Mason (Nelson): Avignon 2. Cynthia Day (Ackworth): Menton 3. Teresa Clements: City of Vancouver

Class 5 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips (2) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth (York): Julia Farnese 2. Keith Eyre (South Cave): Jane L Eyre

Class 6 Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips (1) 1. Not awarded : 2. John Snocken (Bridgnorth): Mabel, Talisman, Columbine

Class 7 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips (5) 1. Malcolm Hainsworth: Columbine 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Seedling 3. Keith Eyre: Jane L Eyre

Florists' Tulips

Open Classes

We have been trying for a number of years to encourage showing members to exhibit in the collection classes instead of placing all their flowers in single bloom classes, and this certainly seems to be paying off. In both of the major Open classes, for twelve breeders and twelve rectified there were four entries. I won both classes which was personally very encouraging because I have never been very successful

with breeder flowers, as was also the case when my father grew them. It is very difficult to keep bulbs as breeders when you grow so many broken ones. Also it is only in the past ten years or so that we have had such an abundance of breeder bulbs available. In the breeder class John Wainwright was second showing twelve flowers of his own raising and John Snocken was third. John was second in the 12 rectified with Judy Baker third. Judy Baker won the Royles Jubilee Cup for nine breeders with John Wainwright again second.



Keith Eyre and visitors at the first table as judging is completed photo James Akers

The outstanding flowers in this section were Teresa Clements' 'Goldfinder' which

was the Premier Breeder in the show, my 'Lord Stanley' flame, Premier Flame and 'Lord Frederick Cavendish', Premier Feather and also overall Premier Bloom. This section was judged by Jack Taylor, assisted by Richard Smales and Chris Bone.

To further encourage members to show in collection classes we have tried this year to increase the variety of bulbs distributed to members who showed, and look forward to seeing the result in 2008.

Class 8 NORMAN EYRE MEMORIAL GOBLET Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties)

(4) 1. James Akers (Wrenthorpe): Albert Tear, Talisman, Wendy Akers, Music, James Wild, Lord Stanley, Goldfinder, Airy, Mabel, Juliet, Hubert Calvert, Judy Baker 2. John Wainwright (Wakefield): K953, K9520, K923, K954, Seedling, AA924, James Akers, Tall Bronze, Casius, Judy Baker, E91, C92-18 3. John Snocken: James Wainwright, Talisman, Bessie, Columbine, Lemuria, Sam Barlow, Lord Stanley, Goldfinder, L92-14, Judy Baker, Juliet, Mabel

Class 9 NEEDHAM MEMORIAL CUP Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips (all dissimilar)

(4) 1. James Akers: Constable Burton Fl, John Hardman Fl, Agbrigg Fe, Ha bit de Noce Fe, Lord Stanley Fl, Sir Joseph Paxton Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe, James Wild Fe, Akers Fl, Wakefield Fl, Mabel Fe, Julia Farnese Fe 2. John Snocken: Columbine Fl, Talisman Fl, Habit de Noce Fe, Adonis Fe, James Wild Fl, Lord Stanley Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe, Sir Joseph Paxton Fe, Mabel Fl, Wakefield Fl, Mabel Fe, Juliet Fe 3. Judy Baker (Stowmarket, Suffolk): Columbine Fl, Agbrigg Fl, Habit de Noce Fe, Adonis Fe, Lord Cavendish Fl, Lord Stanley Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe, Sir Joseph Paxton Fe, Wakefield Fl, Akers Fl, Juliet Fe, Ruth Duthie Fe

Class 10 ROYLES JUBILEE CUP Stand of 9 Breeders (different varieties) (2) 1. Judy Baker: Columbine, Argyre, Bessie, Sam Barlow, Goldfinder, Deryn Roberts, Mabel, Hubert Calvert, Juliet 2. John Wainwright: S922, Seedling, CC922, W9231, S9119, Mercury, G924, Solis, Seedling

Class 11 LOCAL SILVER CHALLENGE CUP Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar) (4) 1. James Akers: Talisman Br, Constable Burton Fl, Adonis Fe, McWH1 Br, Lord Stanley Fl, James Wild Fe, Rosie Wainwright Br, Wakefield Fl, Mabel Fe 2. Judy Baker: Talisman Br, Agbrigg Fl, Adonis Fe, Sam Barlow Br, Lord Frederick Cavendish Fl, Dr Hardy Fe, Mabel Br, Juliet Fl, Wakefield Fe 3. John Snocken: Columbine Br, Agbrigg Fl, Adonis Fe, Sam Barlow Br, James Wild Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe, JW Seedling Br, Wakefield Fl, Mabel Fe

Class 12 SILVER CHALLENGE CUP Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips (3) 1. James Akers: Constable Burton Fl, Adonis Fe, Dr Hardy Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe, Akers Fl, Wakefield Fe 2. Malcolm Hainsworth: Bessie Fl, Constable Burton Fe, Lord Stanley Fl, James Wild Fe, Julia Farnese Fl, Julia Farnese Fe 3. Judy Baker: Agbrigg Fl, Adonis Fe, Sir Joseph Paxton Fl, Royal Sovereign Fe, Akers Fl, Mabel Fe

Class 13 THE G.S.HUNTER MEMORIAL CUP Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties) (5) 1. John Snocken: Columbine, Talisman, James Wild, Lord Stanley, Mabel, Seedling 2. Ulf Hansson (Sweden): Bessie, Music, Sam Barlow, James Wild, Juliet, Mabel 3. John Wainwright: Argyre, Talisman, S91-13G, A935, Casius, Judy Baker

Class 14 STAGES CUP Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (3) 1. James Akers: Mabel Br, Fl and Fe 2. John Snocken: James Wild Br, Fl and Fe 3. Judy Baker: Sam Barlow Br, Fl and Fe

Class 15 SILVER PLATE Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (7) 1. Barbara Pickering (Newmillerdam): Talisman, Goldfinder, Juliet 2. John Snocken: Seedling, Sam Barlow, Mabel 3. Teresa Clements: James Wainwright, Lord Stanley, Unknown

Class 16 Three Flamed (3) 1. Judy Baker: Bessie, Lord Frederick Cavendish, Wakefield 2. Keith Eyre: Albert Tear, Lord Stanley, Mabel 3. James Akers: Columbine, Lord Stanley, Mabel

Class 17 Three Feathered (1) 1. James Akers: Agbrigg, Lord Stanley, Wakefield

Class 18 Pair of Flamed (6) 1. James Akers: Wakefield, Lord Stanley 2. Judy Baker: James Wild, Wakefield 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Sir Joseph Paxton, Bessie

Class 19 Pair of Feathered (4) 1. James Akers: Mabel, Adonis 2. John Snocken: Agbrigg, Royal Sovereign 3. Judy Baker: Dr Hardy, Mrs F Calvert

Class 20 One Breeder (17) 1. Teresa Clements: Goldfinder 2. Jenny Orrell (Wrenthorpe): Wendy Akers 3. John Snocken: JW Seedling

Class 21 One Flamed (9) 1. Judy Baker: Lord Frederick Cavendish 2. James Akers: Lord Stanley 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: Constable Burton

Class 22 One Feathered (2) 1. James Akers: Lord Frederick Cavendish 2. John Gibson (Kirkburton): Hubert Calvert Seedling

Class 23 SEEDLING CUP One Seedling Breeder or Rectified raised by the exhibitor (7) 1. James Akers: Lady Rachel Labouchere Fe 2. John Wainwright: G92-18 3. Malcolm Hainsworth: HCJe

Class 24 Three Seedling Breeders (one from each colour class) (1) 1. John Wainwright: Judy Baker, AA92-4, Argyre

Novice Section

The exhibits in this section were very inspiring, with no less than eight entries for the Gina Roozen cup for three breeders, 25 entries in the class for one breeder and 21 in the class for one flame. The difficulty in getting feathered flowers was reflected in there being only 6 entries in the single feather class, none of which was deemed worthy of a first place card..

Pat King scored the most points in the section to win the Novice cup and she also had the best flower in the section, a fine 'Columbine' Flame.



Jane Green (centre) Judge for the Novice and Extra Open sections assisted by Judy Baker and John Snocken.

photo James Akers

Class 25 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (2) 1. Pat King: Hubert Calvert Br, Columbine Fl, Juliet Fe 2. Teresa Clements: Lord Stanley Br, Fl and Fe

Class 26 One Breeder (21) 1. Margery Walkington (York): Mabel 2. Teresa Clements: Sam Barlow 3. Pippa Young (Askrigg): Mabel

Class 27 One Flamed (25) 1. Pat King: Columbine 2. Dorothy Lindop (Huddersfield): Lord Stanley 3. Bob Taylor (Baildon): Lord Frederick Cavendish

Class 28 One Feathered (6) 1. Not awarded : 2. Roy Tetley (Keighley): Wakefield 3. Bob Taylor: Wakefield

Class 29 THE GINA ROOZEN CUP Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (8) 1. Teresa Clements: Cydonia, Goldfinder, Judy Baker 2. Emilie Wellfelt (Sweden): Music, James Wild, Juliet 3. Pat King: Talisman, Goldfinder, Hubert Calvert

Extra Open Section

This section was also very encouraging with the breeder and flame classes having around 20 entries each. The tally of points showed equality between Jenny Orrell and Bob Taylor, Jenny being awarded the goblet for most points because of her second placed entry in the collection class for three stages. Bob's 'Albert Tear' breeder was the Premier Bloom in the section.

Class 30 One Breeder (19) 1. Bob Taylor: Albert Tear 2. Teresa Clements: Rosie Wainwright 3. Keith Eyre: Solis

Class 31 One Flamed (22) 1. Bob Taylor (Baildon): Lord Stanley 2. Jenny Orrell: Wakefield 3. Eric Wells (Leeds): Sir Joseph Paxton

Class 32 One Feathered (5) 1. Keith Eyre: Lord Stanley 2. Trevor Myers (Wilmslow): Wakefield 3. Margery Walkington: James Wild
 Class 33 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (1) 1. Not awarded: 2. Jenny Orrell: Columbine, Agbrigg, Adonis

Other awards

F R Hunter Cup (Most Points Classes 2 - 4)	Mrs Pat King	
Peter Emmett Trophy (Best Exhibit Classes 2 - 4)	Pat King	Maureen
Jim Akers Memorial Goblet (Most Points - Open)	James Akers	
Brook Silver Challenge Cup (Most Points - Novices) and Glass Goblet	Pat King	
Glass Goblet (Most Points - Extra Open)	Jenny Orrell	
Elizabeth Smith Silver Medal (Youngest Exhibitor)	Not Awarded	

Best Blooms

Premier Bloom (Albert Tear Memorial Trophy)	James Akers	Lord F Cavendish Fe
Best Breeder	Teresa Clements	Goldfinder
Best Flame	James Akers	Lord Stanley
Best Feather	James Akers	Lord F Cavendish
Cochrane of Cults Vase (Classes 20 - 22)	James Akers	Lord F Caven dish Fe
The Dudmaston Plate (Novices)	Pat King	Columbine Flame
S Knowles Cup (Extra Open)	Bob Taylor	Albert Tear Breeder



Richard Smales holding the Premier Bloom 'Lord Frederick Cavendish' Fe whilst Jack Taylor tries to find a better one.

Photo James Akers

So all in all a much better show than was envisaged beforehand plus an unexpected and very welcome first. Ulf Hansson made the journey from Sweden to show his flowers, also bringing some from another Swedish member Emilie Wellfelt. I believe that this is the first time in the history of the society that we have had exhibitors from overseas.

Harrogate Spring Flower Show

James Akers

One of the advantages of the tulip show being in the Society's tent and in close proximity to the daffodils is that space is fairly flexible and, as this year, when daffodils were in short supply the tulip vases could be spread out to greater effect. Although there were only eight entries in the Tulip Championship the quality was very good and for the first time the winner, Paul Payne, retained the championship. Keeping flowers alive for this show when you grow in Norwich is a challenge, but Paul's flowers were still the pick of the class when the show was broken down on Sunday evening. One of the improvements that we have seen in recent years is the increase in number



Paul Payne receiving the Tulip Championship of Great Britain Trophy from Wendy Akers photo James Akers

of different cultivars from the Darwinhybrids and Late sections which are being shown. This increases the colour variation within the first two classes. Another improvement is the increase in the number of exhibits in classes for flowers from other sections, lily-flowered, parrots, fringed and double tulips. The lily-flowered class had no less than nine entries with Barbara Pickering taking first and second prizes with 'Burgundy' and 'Moonlight Girl' respectively. The two classes sponsored by Miniature Bulbs for cut species tulips (including selections and first generation hybrids) were again well supported. However in the class for a pot of these tulips, John Gibson's *T. batalinii* 'Red Jewel' was outstanding, perhaps the best pot of tulips I have ever seen exhibited.

Results

Class

1 3 Vases of 9 Tulips, 3 different varieties, one per vase

1 Paul Payne 'Maureen', 'Grand Cru Vacqueyras', 'La Courtine'

2 Mrs M King 'Atlantis', 'Jan Reus', 'Unknown'

3 Ken Bacon 'La Courtine', 'Grand Cru Vacqueyras', 'Dordogne'

Entries

8

2 9 Tulips - one variety	13
1 Ken Bacon ‘Maureen’ 2 Mrs M King ‘Grand Cru Vacqueyras’ 3 Anne Payne ‘Maureen’	
3 3 Lily flowered tulips, one variety	9
1 Barbara Pickering ‘Burgundy’ 2 Barbara Pickering ‘Moonlight Girl’ 3 Linda Chapman ‘Unknown’	
4 3 Parrot flowered tulips, one variety	5
1 T Clements ‘White Parrot’ 2 Barbara Pickering ‘Black Parrot’ 3 T Depledge ‘Unknown’	
5 3 Double flowered tulips, one variety	4
1 Barbara Pickering ‘Uncle Tom’ 2 Mrs J Orrell ‘Black Hero’ 3 T Clements ‘Orange Princess’	
6 3 Fringed tulips, one variety	3
1 Malcolm Hainsworth ‘Lambada’ 2 T Clements ‘Burgundy Lace’ 3 Barbara Pickering ‘Valery Gergier’	
7 3 Yellow flowered tulips, one variety	5
1 Peter Turner ‘Big Smile’ 2 Ian Yeardley ‘Unknown’ 3 Mrs M King ‘Ivory Floridale’	
8 3 White flowered tulips, one variety	7
1 Paul Payne ‘Maureen’ 2 Ken Bacon ‘Maureen’ 3 Linda Chapman ‘Sapporo’	
9 3 Pink or Red flowered tulips, one variety	21
1 Ken Bacon ‘Menton’ 2 Ken Bacon ‘Dordogne’ 3 Barbara Pickering ‘Grand Cru Vacqueyras’	
10 3 tulips any other colour, one variety	13
1 Brian Collinson ‘Dordogne’ 2 Mrs J Orrell ‘Cairo’ 3 Paul Payne ‘Queen of Night’	
1 15 Kaufmaniana, Greigii or Fosteriana cultivars	1
1 Not Awarded 2 T Clements ‘Corsage’	
12 3 multi-headed tulips one variety	3
1 T Clements ‘Ad Rem’ 2 Barbara Pickering ‘Antoinette’ 3 Harry Fogg ‘Ad Rem’	
13 3 tulips any other colour, one variety - restricted entry	5
1 H Brooke ‘Unknown’ 2 Linda Van Lopik ‘Grand Cru Vacqueyras’ 3 Jean Wyatt ‘Barcelona’	
14 3 cut flowers from one species tulip	9
1 Marguerite Murray <i>T. clusiana chrysantha</i> 2 J N Gibson ‘Bright Gem’ 3 M King ‘Bronze Charm’	
15 5 cut flowers from one or more species tulips	4
1 J N Gibson ‘Bright Gem’ 2 Ian Yeardley ‘Unknown’ 3 T Clements ‘Various’	
16 A Bowl or pan of species tulips containing not less than 5 bulbs	6
1 J N Gibson <i>T. batalinii</i> ‘Red Jewel’ 2 T Clements <i>T. batalinii</i> ‘Yellow Jewel’ 3 Ian Yeardley <i>T. batalinii</i> ‘Red Hunter’	

New Acquisitions in the W.N.E.T.S. Library

The year 2007 has been good for enlarging the list of library books which are available to members and which can be viewed and borrowed at the AGM, although requests will be considered at any time.

New Pamphlets

Chelsea Flower Show 1950

May Flowering Tulips

R.H. Bath Season 1950

Tulips by Bath's

Periodicals

The range of Daffodil and Tulip Yearbooks (R.H.S.) is increasing, and although there are still gaps we have some from the 1940s, 50s and 60s up to the present day.

New Books

The Gardener and Practical Florist 1st Vol. Richard Groombridge, London 1843.

The Florist etc, 1858, "Florist" Office London 1858.

Tulipmania Money, Honor, and Knowledge in the Dutch Golden Age by Anne Goldgar University of Chicago Press 2007.

The Bentley Barlow Cross Connection and appendix. Research by Patricia Boulting-Hall. Published by Catherine S. Boulting.

The Florist's Directory. By James Maddock with appendix by Samuel Curtis . Published by John Harding 1822 . (Donated by John Snocken)

Amateur Florists' Guide by John Slater 1860 (Donated by John Snocken)

Tulipmania Money, Honor, and Knowledge in the Dutch Golden Age by Anne Goldgar

Brought to our attention by Malcolm Hainsworth, this recently published book looks likely to be an invaluable source of information on the many aspects of the Tulip Fever which has become part of popular myth.

Goldgar, through detailed research into the lives of the actual people involved with tulips at the time, gives us another viewpoint. By having researched largely on the spot in museums and archives in the Netherlands, she is able to present a clearer picture of what tulipmania really meant.

Intensely informative, this book gets down to the facts and foibles of the lives of

individuals and sets them in lively context with the trade, politics, religion and culture of the Netherlands during the period of the “Golden Age.”

From the tavern to the court room, the merchant ship to the “cabinet of curiosities” from the private garden to the flower painter’s studio everything is explored and explained and wherever possible tulips are named and framed.

The illustrations are plentiful and wide ranging with material including a page of a notary’s doodles (also creatively used as end papers) familiar and unfamiliar paintings and drawings of the period and beautiful maps of towns such as Haarlem, showing the extent of gardens there in 1649.

There is a helpful glossary of some of the more frequently referenced Dutch words, but throughout the text, explanatory notes offer sources of further information and an ongoing bibliography.

It could be time to brush up your Dutch pronunciation. I thoroughly recommend this book

Lists and requests via The Librarian W.N.E.T.S. 14, St. John’s Avenue Wakefield, WF1 2RE.

Marguerite Murray

A Private View at Chatsworth

Marguerite Murray

What could be more impressive on a visit by the Tulip Society to Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, than to approach the door through an avenue of twelve pairs of tulip trees? As if prearranged, the ranks of *Liriodendron tulipifera* were in flower, and the fascinating green blossoms did indeed resemble tulips in shape and size. Most of the trees were gnarled and well-established, but one or two looked younger as if they could have been replacements at some point. They all appeared perfectly groomed and as disciplined as a guard of honour.

Our group was guided through the door, which led to the private apartments of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, who were waiting to greet us and introduce themselves. The Twelfth Duke of Devonshire is the President of The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society, and with his permission the special highlight of the visit was the opportunity to see the carpet in the Yellow Drawing Room, which features florists' tulips in the design. The details of this carpet are well documented in Celia Fisher's excellent article "Tulips depicted in early Axminster carpets" in the Tulip Society's 2005 Newsletter.

To see the real thing in full scale and colour was a treat and a privilege, and walking on it hardly seemed appropriate, but it was, after all a carpet. Decorated in its design with tulips, roses, peonies, camellias, shells and acanthus leaves and measuring perhaps 6m x 10m, it resonated with all the beauty and ceremony attached to the new flowers of its period, and the status which their ownership, or their depiction in the decorative arts implied. The carpet is showing wear, but surviving wonderfully well.

The previous room contained two large-scale tulip petal paintings by Rory McEwen, one of which had been included in the "Old Flames" exhibition at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park last year. The other (*see picture right by Jeff Pickering*) in finely detailed tones of white and grey could almost have been a
m o n o c h r o m e



photograph. I had been hoping to see again the Nigel Wymouth painting “Tulips After the Show 1989”, but the Duke was rather vague concerning its whereabouts. I remembered joking at the “Old Flames” exhibition that if that picture disappeared, I might be the culprit, and someone else saying “Not if I get there first!” It is such a covetable piece -I hope it is safe and sound somewhere.

The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire have what could be described as an eclectic taste, together with a very sure and discerning eye. The two rooms and corridor displayed an exciting mix of antique furniture with modern pieces, works of fine art traditional and contemporary, inherited and commissioned, together with craft pieces and decorative items of the most superb workmanship and detail. I am sure everyone was identifying their favourites. I was particularly interested to see a smallish figurative sculpture by Lynn Chadwick (1914-2003) which the Duchess said they had had for some time. I have liked his work since I became aware of it as an art student in the 60s. Its angular glittering metal presence directed the eye unexpectedly to the nearby chandeliers which were refracting a share of light from the same window. At every turn a new object or painting caught the attention and the visit to the private area was all too short.

Since the present Duke and Duchess have taken up residence at Chatsworth, changes have been made in the public galleries and I was pleased to be able to get much closer to some of the famous tulip vases than on a previous visit. The largest had six tiers and stood on a base with feet and lizard supports (see picture by James Akers on the front cover). There were four spouts per tier and other similar vases of three, four and five tiers had spouts in the form of a head with an open mouth. The five-tier one had a top finial and there were others on a smaller scale, but grouped so as to enable fairly close scrutiny and comparison between them all. I have always wondered how the tulip held its own against the strong blue and white patterns of the decoration on the vases. The best of the Chatsworth vases have been photographed with plain red tulips (which I suspect may have been artificial) and they just about managed to compete. To modern sensibilities it seems perhaps an over- elaborate method of showing flowers and there is the problem of the stalks elongating over time in the water (as they do) and the question of how long or short the stems were cut. At the other extreme the brown beer bottle offers a more practical solution, but fortunately there are many happy and elegant methods of presentation in between the two. (I am thinking again of the Nigel Wymouth.)

Tulip vases like those at Chatsworth, floor standing and very valuable were as much a demonstration of wealth and taste, a centrepiece and a talking point, as a support for the flower to be viewed.

A recent acquisition, a group of contemporary ceramics by Edmund de Waal, was installed rather playfully in another corridor. Entitled “A Sounding Line”, the cylindrical porcelain vessels had connotations of the pipes of a church organ or stems of bamboo. While referencing the house porcelains and armorial jars, they are

based on the celadons of the Far East. A black urn(?) with a beautifully marked and well shaped tulip also caught my eye (*see photographs below by James Akers*).



The souvenir I bought after much deliberation in the gift shop was a tin plate (*below*), but produced with a design of plums and flowers, including a bizarre tulip, which replicates a Victorian porcelain plate (c.1870), one of a dessert service in use at Chatsworth. It looks splendidly convincing I think on my wall at home.



Thanks again to Joanna for organising the visit.

The Garden Visit to Chatsworth on 16 June 2007

Barbara Pickering

After a fascinating, albeit brief, tour of the house following the visit to the private apartments of the Duke and Duchess, and despite ever threatening skies, we struck out south along the Broadwalk towards Blanche's vase which terminates the vista. We were almost instantly overtaken by a golf buggy containing the Akers and Margaret Hayward. We passed alongside Salisbury Lawns, five acres of grass laid down by Capability Brown in the 1760s. Definitely no "Weed and Feed" here - and as a result burgeoning with wild flower species and fifteen different varieties of moss. (A lesson here for those lawn maintenance fanatics amongst you!)

Emerging below us first was the South Lawn and Sea Horse Fountain which lead the eye to the Canal Pond and magnificent Emperor Fountain. This vista is wonderfully captured in the Hockney painting in the Duke's sitting room and was a real privilege for us to see. We left formality behind as we wandered upwards, the path taking us past rhododendrons, ferns and the mighty gunnera. You soon arrive at the Trough Waterfall which carries the overflow from the Grotto Pond above. It was created in 1997 using thirteen stone troughs found "lying about" in the fields. I was struck by the scale of it and could but marvel at how they were manoeuvred into place. Having endeavoured to incorporate various stone artefacts "lying about" in my own garden, I was extremely impressed. We skirted around the Grotto Pond in a hurried search for three of Chatsworth's "Ten Great Trees" indicated on our leaflet. One particular one new to me was the Bosnian Pine - *P. heldreichi*. The adjoining Pinetum has over 200 more conifers planted by the 6th Duke in 1829 but they would have to wait for another day.

Back downhill following our noses, we arrived at the site of Paxton's famous Great Conservatory, (completed in 1840 but demolished in 1920) now home to the Maze which was planted in 1962. We dare not risk going in as we were short of time but judging from the shrieks of delight from the children it sounded a lot of fun. Around the maze is the lupin garden, but most plants looked bedraggled after all the rain and the



dahlias were yet to do their stuff. After searching in vain for the tunnel exit, (where the 300 tons of coal per year emerged en route to the 8 boilers), we resisted the temptation of the 100 Steps with the Monkey Puzzle tree so prominent half way up (*see photograph on previous page by James Akers*) and emerged into the Strid and Rock garden area. This has been transformed since our last visit in 2001. Where Paxton had developed a steam-powered machine to help place the rocks, today a mobile crane was used in the 2002/3 restoration to lower rocks, weighing as much as 3 tons, into position. A climb up to the viewpoint between two towers of stone had its reward with a wonderful panorama westwards towards Edensor.

Uphill again to through the Arboretum and north towards the top of the Cascade (*right*). Here the threatening storm broke and we sheltered in the Cascade House. More water in what is already a very watery place. There was no need for water to be made to spurt up through holes in the floor - which is apparently possible!



There was no way I was going to miss the Kitchen Garden so it was best foot forward. The original seven acre kitchen garden, half a mile away in the park, was abandoned in 1946 and this one dates only from the 1990s but with an evident emphasis not only on productivity but also beauty. This must surely must reflect the influence of the Dowager Duchess (I remember her choice of 'Home Guard' potatoes as her luxury on Desert Island Discs).

The highlight for me here were the magnificent beds of herbaceous peonies (blossoms of which we had seen earlier so artfully displayed around the house). There must have been a dozen or more different varieties all clearly labelled and at their absolute peak. We were beginning to flag now and after a "noses up against the glass" experience at the Display House (the famous *Victoria amazonica* water lily was in there somewhere), we headed back to the Stable Courtyard and ordered a very welcome pot of tea and some unctuous Bakewell Pudding. Everything was winding down and closing up but we left having seen a good part of the garden, though by no means all. There is always something different, some improvement and accessibility is very good. (What a great idea those buggies are). Brown may have seen that Chatsworth had "capabilities" but it was Paxton who delivered. What a genius he was and remembering the Society's link with him and the Cavendish family made this a "grand" day out in every way.

Favourite Gardens

Marguerite Murray

Some gardens stay in the memory as perfect moments in time. Other gardens, however lovely, make me wonder what they would be like in another season, or without other people, or what difference an extra hour would make. There are well known and lesser-known gardens which can be visited again and again without loss of interest, and friends' gardens can be riveting because of shared enthusiasms and frequent comparisons: shade and sun ratios, effects of latitude, frost pockets, prevailing winds, will their cuttings do well in your soil? etc., etc.

However, there are two outstanding gardens, which once there, I never wanted to leave. One is Ling Beeches at Scarcroft near Leeds. It belonged to Mrs Philippa Rakusen who was a Trustee of the Northern Horticultural Society from 1987-95 and Honorary Director of Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens (now RHS. Garden, Harlow Carr) from 1980-92. Sadly she died last year.

Ling Beeches is a garden nudging its way into an existing beech plantation, with other native trees and a few special imports included in the two acre site. The house and the open spaces sit very naturally within the whole, and Mrs. Rakusen had a special interest in the foliage of shrubs and plants which she used for effective continuity throughout the year. Where there is a pool of light or a clearing, her intelligent and sympathetic planting enhances the feeling of being in a wood but turns it into a wood that is rather magical. Perhaps in the wild there would have been wood anemones; Philippa planted blue (*Nemorosa robinsoniana*), or double white ones in generous drifts. Following the paths led to subtle delights and contrasts, introductions to unusual ground cover, or the surprise of a golden hop escaping up a conifer. I always felt very happy to be there, wanting to extend the moment. More recently, however, I was re-acquainted with a garden I had seen nearly ten years ago, and which also belonged to a special person who had given it a lifetime's commitment. Lady Serena James lived at St. Nicholas in Richmond, North Yorkshire until her death in 2000, aged ninety-nine years. When I first discovered the garden, the gateway was just left open, a dusty cardboard sign on the wall by the road read "Garden Open Today", and if you knew where you were you could wander in and put some money in a tin on a table by the front porch. Another lady arrived, approaching the house and asked if she lived there, as I felt a bit unsure about the arrangements. "Oh no," she said, "I'm just here to play bridge - it's Bridge this afternoon, but it's all right to look round." So my sister Janet and I had the garden to ourselves. It was like exploring a garden in another time, an age of elegance and bounty, which had been subject to gentle neglect and the tiffs that gardens always have with nature. Here nature had won, there horticulture was holding its own. Here greenhouses and coldframes were half forgotten, there topiary and old roses were clinging on. It was possible to recognise the enthusiasm and sense of theatre that the garden must once

have engendered, and to appreciate the various atmospheres exuded by different areas; orchards, borders, lawns, semi-wilderness and kitchen garden all seemed to be under some sort of spell. Ever since, I had wanted to go back there, and yesterday I did.

I knew Lady Serena had died, and that the house had changed hands. Surprisingly the name of Keith Schellenberg, the new owner, I knew by reputation, as I had grown up in and near Middlesbrough where his family had a successful business and he won personal fame in 1956 as Captain of the Olympic Bobsleigh Team. He is determined to restore the garden, well aware of its history, and is opening it in support of St. John's Ambulance, for whom Lady Serena was President. The History is gripping. The information sheet tells us "St. Nicholas began as a hospitium and a guest house for nearby Easby Abbey in the 12th century..... The house eventually passed through various owners until bought by the Dundas family, owners of the Aske Estate in 1813.(The wife of the first Marquess of Zetland, Lady Lilian Lumley, was the aunt of Lady Serena James.) It was rented from the estates at the end of the 19th century by the Hon. Robert James until it was bought by the James family. Over 100 years ago he began laying out and replanting the existing Victorian garden in a style which influenced gardening throughout the 20th century." Bobbie James(1873- 1960) was one of the great gardeners of the 20th century and indeed the gardens at St. Nicholas were greatly renowned from 1920 until his death. He was a friend and an inspiration to many of those whose names rank high in the gardening history of those years - amongst others, the Sackville Wests, the Comptons at Newby Hall near Ripon, and Johnnie Johnston whose garden at Hidcote was the first National Trust garden. Bobbie James was probably the inspiration for the Hidcote gardens. Always an artist and innovator, he travelled widely to find what he needed for his plans at St. Nicholas and subscribed to expeditions to Nepal and the Himalayas, which brought seeds for his beloved Rhododendrons and Azaleas, not easy inhabitants of the Yorkshire soil.

"A widower by 1920, he and the young daughter of the Earl of Scarborough fell in love and they lived happily ever after in the 'Cottage by the Road'. Lady Serena James became an enthusiast of her beloved husband's gardening ideals and indeed, after his death in 1960 found it hard to prune or cut back or in any way change his plan." There is a 'St. Nicholas' rose, which Bobbie James bred and perhaps better known, the rose named after him, 'Bobbie James' has an RHS Award of Garden Merit. Huge fragrant sprays of creamy-white semi-double blooms are borne in early summer only. The rampant grower has shiny, dark green leaves with copper tinges. Height 9m (30ft). Somehow it complements perfectly the stone walls of the house where I saw it in full bloom and yes, sniffed it

So far it looks like the garden is holding its own although here and there a startling martagon lily lurches unexpectedly from some long grass, or a wild flower never looked so splendid or well fed as in a border where it has camped. St. Nicholas seems to make an unforgettable impression on all who visit, and I am pleased to think it will now offer enjoyment to visitors into the foreseeable future.

Holland 2007

Mike Flinton

In April, with a small group of friends, I left East Midlands airport early in the morning and then, due to the time difference, arrived at Schipol almost as early. The proposed programme was to visit ten growers in the time available. However, we had rather overlooked the fact that it was Easter Monday, and we were driving from north to south, attempting to cross the whole population of the Ruhr driving from east to west, bent on reaching the nearest sea-side.

Plan B had to come into operation straight away, so after a quick snack near Lisse we reversed course and headed north to Limmen and the Hortus Bulborum, which we found, as directed, just behind the church. Only a couple of fields, and not large fields either, this collection of historical varieties based on a private collection of the 1920s was a great introduction. The season was just as early, just as hot and just as dry in Holland as it was at home, in fact the Hortus closed within days of our visit because most flowers had gone over. The tulip collection is perhaps the main item, and for me the highlight was the display of the Duc van Thol varieties, the precursors of the current Early Singles. Short to very short in the stem, and in a glowing range of colours they seemed to have a good spread of flowering time, and be pretty resistant to the sort of weather extremes they were enduring. As far as I know, the Duc van Thols are almost unobtainable, but we did later come across one grower who had his own collection, though we never actually saw it. If available I am sure they would become as popular as the 'botanical tulips' or species.



Duc van Thol tulips at the Hortus Bulborum

photos Mike Flinton

The English Florists' tulips were flowering but I must admit to being disappointed because breeders and rectified were all growing together, and lots of 'breeders' were really bad breaks. I got the impression any surplus goes, or did go, via a Swedish intermediary to the States.

The crocus collection was of course over, and the daffodils can be matched in at least one grower's catalogue, but totally unexpected was the display and variety of Crown Imperials, *fritillaria imperialis*, magnificent, weather and sun proof, standing in serried ranks, in bed after bed. Hyacinths there were in number, far more than ever appear in the lists we see.

As far as I could make out different species are grown in different parts of Holland – tulips to the south, daffodils to the north, gladioli and polytunnel work elsewhere. Flower growers don't grow bulbs, and bulb growers don't grow flowers. Hyacinths seem to be the exception, appearing everywhere in, I understand, increasing numbers, and moves are afoot to resurrect them as show flowers. Dutch fields with rows stretching away to the horizon look great in dark blue, white and definite shades of red, but stripes of pale puce are just ugh !

Northwards then to daffodil country, countryside still with the odd acres of 'Toyota'. I was surprised by the height of the dunes which separate the coast from the land, providing a perfect windbreak against the biting winds straight down the North Sea from Spitsbergen. I have found 'Toyota' not to have the best of stems for its big flowers, but there was nothing wrong with these. The soil in which they were growing was literally a mixture of sand and shells, some of the latter being 2in (5cm) or more across. At the bottom was a greyish, more clayey layer. Whilst all the main dykes are of course fixed, the lesser water distributaries are very flexible, with a water Authority at hand with advice and help – after all the bulb crops are big business in Holland. The distributaries comprise a series of pounds, separated by stop planks so that the water level can be altered to build up wherever needed for irrigation, and the free draining soil allows a flow back to the dykes. This goes on down to the lowest point where there may be a pump to push the water back round the cycle again. How much all of this costs I don't know, but abstraction licences didn't seem to be strong talking points.

A word about the traditional water pump windmills. We saw four, two of which were quite decrepit, one not quite so bad, and one had suffered the humiliation of becoming a visitor centre. The first generation wind turbine/pumps along the canals can sometimes be visually obtrusive, and creakily noisy. The latest 200-footers are so tall they are virtually invisible, and very quiet too, though at twenty revolutions a minute the blade tips must travel at quite a speed.

This countryside was far from the madding crowd, soil probably clay rather than shell/sand. Sheep abounded and there were many small studs of black ponies. Whilst partridges were acceptable in the grass, it seemed strange that their fellows were oyster catchers and redshanks, but the sea was never far away. Only one herd

of Friesians was seen at grass, the presence of dairy cattle was marked more by the baulks of crewyard bedding being built up in the fields before spreading.

On to the Anna Paulowna polder, still not completely dry. We didn't get to Breezand, but the surprise of the visit was to find, amongst the rows of the smaller fritillaries (from seed) and the polytunnels of pleione orchid seedlings, beds and beds of the brilliant electric blue Chilean crocus *Tecophilea*, in a wide range of blues and with widely varying amounts of white in the centre, again from seed. All these small things, along with all the other bulbs we saw, were growing through a mulch of chopped straw, which I found intriguing. How does the mulch stay down in that wide open windswept countryside without blowing away ?

This part of Holland is daffodil country, and one could only stand back at the sheer abandon with which they grew, and the flowers they produced. It became apparent quite quickly that English tastes are not the same as Continental tastes. The scale of operations was quite beyond our ken, growers confessing that they needed to sell the weight equivalent of a million bulbs of any one variety before it could be regarded as profitable. Where do a million or more bulbs per variety go ? America and Japan seemed to be the answer. Our concept of the bulb trade is small fry compared to this. The warmth of Dutch hospitality falls into the same large hearted category. We were welcomed everywhere and felt at home straight away.

Back to the more built-up South, and exiting via gaps in the lines of houses into the fields behind broughtone of the more exciting moments – the car stuck in the sand perilously close to a dyke. Without more ado the ladies abandoned ship and hopped it to the other side of the dyke (the bridge was a couple of sheets of boiler plate which rattled when crossed) and sent back volumes of advice, and took many photos, but not much of practical value. The situation, if not the face, was saved by the arrival of a chap who took out the driver's handbook, flicked the traction control switch, and drove calmly to safety.

After that little local difficulty we were privileged to see, walk through and discuss Eric Breed's hybridising programme, seeing the collection of species grown from seeds gathered in Turkey, Crete, Greece and Central Asia, together with gifts from local specialists, and the enormous range of first cross hybrids bred from them. The range of colours and types appearing, both in flowers and foliage, is amazing. Apparently it is rather a waste of time trying to forecast just which colours will come from any particular cross, as one given combination of genes will produce a wide colour range, and to complicate matters one given colour will be produced by an equally wide range of gene combinations. If I had been given the chance to select half a dozen, I think I would be there still, for having noted one good flower, the next step would bring one even better, then another, and so on down the very long rows. Of course selections had been made and one or two of them were advanced enough to be growing on in small blocks, and the hybridisers were even then still busy in the rows. Although tulip species are usually only fertile within their own groups, it is



possible to get seed by applying fully compatible pollen to stimulate the stigmas and then following up with an otherwise incompatible pollen. This then behaves as the original pollen and the way is open for fertile seed to set. It will still be ten years or so before any commercial results will be seen. It seems all the unselected stocks are

simply thrown away, though I have the feeling some may have been thrown in the general direction of Yorkshire.

Beside all this the Keukenhof was another world, informally formal, a baroque way of saying this is how tulips should be used. I was just as impressed by the wild flower mixture used in the central reservations of roads and in the verges outside, because this include, naturally, a range of tulips, and they all looked to be perfectly at home and flourishing. Perhaps we should get away from the ‘parks and gardens’ approach and be more adventurous with the species and new crosses.



Two views of Eric Breed seedlings

photos Mike Flinton

At home after all these millions, I looked at my four bulbs of ‘James Wild’, my two bulbs and two offsets of ‘Columbine’, and the single ‘Mabel’, looked across the great gulf of taste and thought “They still don’t have anything like these”. It did absolutely nothing to raise my spirits.

Warm Thoughts

Teresa Clements

Some time ago I was given a book for my birthday and earlier this year I finally picked it off the shelf and read it, it is by Ken Thompson and is called “An Ear to the Ground” subtitled Garden Science for Ordinary Mortals. What a good gift, I really enjoyed it, there was so much wisdom and good sense presented with humour and a sensible approach.

I was struck by a little passage in the chapter on climate.

In bulbs of temperate climates, that normally grow in deciduous woodland, as much of the life cycle as possible is condensed into the brief period in Spring and early summer before the tree canopy is fully expanded. In daffodils (Narcissus species), for example, the formation of next year's flower buds takes place immediately after flowering, while the leaves are dying down. Many other native woodland bulbs behave similarly, for example the snowdrop (Galanthus nivalis) and the lily-of-the-valley (Convallaria majalis)

Bulbs from drier climates behave quite differently. In many the flower buds form long after the current year's leaves have died. Commercially this would be after harvesting but before replanting in the autumn. Not surprisingly, flower bud formation requires relatively high temperatures. Tulip (Tulipa species), hyacinth (Hyacinthus orientalis) and crocus (Crocus species) fall into this category.

He goes on to give a little summary,

Because daffodils complete all their growth early in the season they are ideal for growing under deciduous trees or shrubs and it doesn't matter how deep the shade is later in the year. Tulips are not happy under these conditions because they don't get the warmth they need to mature next year's flowers. Of course, if you treat tulips as spring bedding you can grow them anywhere – they will get their warm period after you dig them up. But if you leave them in the ground, tulips will only really thrive in a warm, sunny spot.

Good sense eh? It all sounds very familiar and was brought to mind by the questions of several visitors to the Harrogate Spring Show and at the Tulip Weekend at Constable Burton Hall, some of whom planted mixed drifts of tulips and daffodils in cool shady places and were disappointed at the lack of repeat flowering from the tulips.

It was also brought to mind by my own bulbs this year. A couple of years ago I wrote a little piece for the newsletter following my underwhelming entry for the

2005 Annual Show. At least I felt I had learned a lesson or two and was full of good intentions and high hopes for 2006. Alas, the best laid plans.....etc. The spring of 2006 was a prolonged period of cool, damp gloom and not a single English Florists' tulip from my small collection was ready to show. I had a little flurry of blossom a couple of weeks after the show, not much and too late. However, what happened next was the sizzling hot summer! The bulbs dried off, I cleaned them up and brought them in to the glazed porch where they cooked in brown paper bags – safe from the mice (!) – over the hot summer months. At the time of planting them out again I was pleasantly surprised at how they had bulked up from the wet spring and, as ever, felt that little glow of optimism and anticipation at what might be to come.

Spring in 2007, in Harrogate at least, brought exactly the right weather for the English Florists' tulips. I know that for many in milder climates it was just too hot too soon but for once the elements conspired to bring on my little collection for exactly the right weekend. I read and re-read the recommended procedure in *The Book* and for the first time ever had enough blooms to fill a crate. This isn't an article about the show so let's just say it was fantastic! I won the Gina Roozen Cup and one of my Goldfinder breeders won the Best Breeder in Show. I was very, very pleased.....

To get back to the plot, I feel sure the heat of the previous summer was largely responsible for the number of bulbs producing flowers this year, not only for the English Florists' tulips but the Dutch bulbs as well and I think others would confirm this phenomenon.

During a visit to Amsterdam last autumn we visited the Tulip Museum and watched a short video about commercial tulip bulb production. Almost the whole process is mechanised with the bulbs being lifted by machine, washed, then loaded in to large, square, pallet sized boxes. The boxes were then stood over heating vents where the bulbs were dried off and held at a safe, high temperature to ensure bud set before being cooled and packed for sale. I wonder if this treatment has any bearing on something a few people commented on at the shows this year? Those of us who grew 'Ad Rem' were very surprised to find it multiheaded this year. Of my ten bulbs, eight had at least two flowers, could they have been overcooked or maybe cooled and reheated causing them to set their buds twice?

So, I will be looking after my bulbs this summer and ensuring that they get their vital dose of warmth and set some good buds. Then I'll be dreaming of another Spring just like 2007, have I told you about this year's show yet?

Midland Report

Trevor Mills

What a surprise receiving the Wakefield & North of England Tulip Society 2006 newsletter two days before Christmas.

Containing a miscellany of articles that should give cheer to anyone interested in the flower.

I loved the piece by Steve Thompson recognising cultivars by leaf form and colour. By the way Hubert Calvert was an exponent of this, though I do not think he put his findings in text. Roll on the day when one can purchase the domestic equipment to show you the DNA. of a particular variety, (it is not so very far away). Maybe this appliance could be given as a present together with membership to a tulip society. (*The W&NOE Society has had an offer from a member to do DNA tests. This will be taken up later this year Ed*)

Since sending out details of membership to the Midland Tulip Society, tulip enthusiasts from other areas of the country, have showed their desire to be included. The schedule for this society only calls for Dutch and species tulips, but due to global warming maybe English Florists' flowers will be included in future years.

Thanks must go to Gillian Waldren licensee to the Foresters Arms who allow us to use the facilities for our show, with plenty of cups of tea and coffee whilst setting up the show and flowers. There is no charge involved, although other liquid refreshments from behind the bar must be paid for.

Members are invited to a meal, whilst judging is in progress, sitting down with other customers. This system goes back to the earliest shows of this kind, and it seems to meet with approval, long may it continue. After the show tulips are sold to the members and to the public, whilst other left over are given to the publican to sell for charity.

300th Anniversary

Sylvia Robertson

2007 marks the 300th Anniversary of Carl von Linné's birth. Today we recognise him as Linnaeus whose system of naming and ordering of plants has served until the DNA specialists arrived.

His claim to fame also lies in his earlier fascination with sexual ordering of plants. Without breeders where would Florists' Tulips produce our delectable Flames and Feathers!

We visited Stockholm in August with Brightwater Holidays and using Linnaeus as a guide went to Skansen, a city island devoted to 18-19 century country life. It has many original buildings and in one plot there was a series of beds connected to Linnaeus. One showed a circular display of sex in plants – one wife and one husband – one wife and 2 – 3 – 4 husbands, up to Geraniums – one wife and many husbands. Polygamy on a big scale, an ingenious way to catch the eye of the general public.

North of Stockholm we had a visit to Uppsala, where Linnaeus rescued the Botanic Gardens after a disastrous fire in the 1730s, using the chance to show off his plant ordering and sex interest. The University Gardens also had areas connected to Linnaeus especially old varieties of apples, with an invitation to sample windfalls. That and the ubiquitous coffee and stroll round their Linnaeus exhibition reminded us of our purpose.

We completed that day with a visit to the Linné country estate nearby which gave a picture of family, farm life and connections during his lifetime.

There have been various exhibitions connected to Linnaeus here in Britain, notably in Edinburgh Botanic and the British library, but being on the spot brings an added sparkle.

Daffodils & Tulips for exhibition and the garden



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World Tulip Summit - Spalding

This will be held on Thursday/Friday 1-2 May 2008 and there are associated events in the area over a fortnight. Full details are on the summit website www.tulip2008.com. The Society will have a stand similar to the gold medal-winning RHS stand for five days.

Speakers - First day

John Honor, Spalding & District Civic Society – Setting the scene with some of the history of the South Holland area and its bulb growing background

James Akers, Wakefield & North of England Tulip Society – Florists tulips

Anna Pavord, garden writer and author of *The Tulip* - Following the origins of the tulip

Karen Platt, publisher and author - *The quest for the black tulip*

Ronald van der Hilst, Antwerp based artist & garden designer - *The Inspiring Tulip*

Dr John Page, specialist in Alpine tulips – Growing tulips as Alpines

Sally Petitt, Cambridge University Botanic Garden – National collection of *Tulipa* species and primary hybrids at Cambridge

Richard Wilford, Kew Gardens – Tulips at Kew

Speakers - Second day

Prof. Bill Miller, Cornell University – Current tulip research and technical programmes

Jan-Marc Oosting, Van Elburg Botanic Media – Tulips as photographic art

James Armitage, RHS Wisley - Small flowered tulips trial update

Inga Grimsey, Director General, Royal Horticultural Society – The RHS

Visits to Flower Float Sheds, Springfields Festival Gardens or Ayscoughfee Gardens
Summit Country Exchange - Representatives from countries at the Summit have an opportunity to address delegates in short presentations about their links with tulips or their own floral festivals.

The costs to delegates at the summit are as follows:-

Premier package from £495 (incl VAT*) includes accommodation

Standard package £245 (incl VAT)

Day Package £105 (incl VAT) per day

Gala Dinner £40 (incl VAT)

Extracts from
Enjoy Your Todays - The life of a florist
Peter Royles

At the funeral of the wife of one of our very good friends, Wendy asked me if I would write an article for inclusion in our newsletter, jokingly I replied “I’ll write the story of my life”, she replied “yes please”, taking me completely by surprise. So here I am with six weeks of inactivity in front of me after hospital treatment asking myself why would anybody be interested in my life. Like yourself I am just an ordinary person who has lived an ordinary life.

My story starts 83 years ago when I was born in Ty Draw just outside Bodfari. Ty Draw was two very old stone semi-detached cottages . They were very small, just two rooms upstairs and two down. There was no electricity or gas, the water supply was a tap one hundred yards away up a narrow lane on the main road. This frequently froze in the winter, the privy was also built of stone and was a rough wooden plank with two holes cut out, one for our cottage and one for next door and splinters were a problem.

On Chrysanthemum growing

I continued showing in London with some success, winning at least once, the three, six, nine and twelve bloom classes but I did not grow enough plants to make the top class of eighteen blooms. I was also showing at Harrogate. I had met Jim Akers at London and met up with him again at Harrogate. Jim was of the old school, he did not believe that good blooms could be grown in anything other than John Innes number four with hard ramming of the pots. He was Chairman of the Northern Section of the National Chrysanthemum Society and I was a committee member.....

In the 1970s I began to find that showing large exhibition chrysanthemums was becoming a chore, the loss of a nights sleep, first at London, then at Harrogate was having an adverse affect on my health. I tried growing other types of chrysanthemums which did not require dressing. One success was with ‘Sam Vintner’, a cultivar that required no dressing and I won best vase at the Harrogate Show with five blooms. The first persons to congratulate me were Jim Akers and his wife. He did not see eye to eye with me on my use of soil-less compost. He was a traditionalist; I believe that tradition impedes progress. He told me that it was a cracking good vase of blooms and said, “You did not grow them in soil-less muck, you grew them in John Innes number four and rammed them hard”. I told him he was wrong, they had been grown in soil-less compost. There was a wicked glint in his eyes as he left me and said, “Think how good they would have been in John Innes compost and rammed hard”.

The following November at Harrogate I noticed some of the exhibitors exchanging brown paper bags. Being nose-y, I asked what was in the bags, the reply was old English tulip bulbs. I had never heard of them before and being curious asked if they could let me have some bulbs. They told me to ask Jim Akers, he grows 10,000. When I met Jim I asked him if he would let me have some bulbs, his reply was “No lad, you live too far from Wakefield and you will not show them”. I do not think he was telling the truth, I am sure he could not bear the thought of his beloved tulips being grown in soil-less compost.....

On growing tulips

In 1987, at one of the (Daffodil) Society’s meetings, I was asked by Wendy, if Beryl would like to grow Old English Tulips and she gave me a small bunch to take home and show her, the very tulips Jim had refused to give me twenty years earlier. She knew that Beryl would say “Yes”. I should have smelt a rat. After joining and been allocated our four bulbs, it was not long before I was asked would I start breeding them. The number of breeders in existence was low. James and Wendy informed me that very few had been raised, in the last few years. It was a challenge I could not refuse. They gave me more bulbs and I started crossing. The first year I produced about five hundred seed, only two germinated when I planted them. The second year was more successful and twenty germinated out of over one thousand seed sown. I sat down and wondered why so few were fertile, what was I doing wrong? I thought about what happens in the countries where they grew wild, cold winters and long summers. The answer was there. In my third year I potted up several bulbs and grew them in my greenhouse. They flowered in mid April and I immediately pollinated them so that the seed heads would have a longer period of ripening. I had previously done my pollination after the show. The result was a disaster and out of about 2,500 seed 2,000 germinated. How could I possibly grow 2000 tulips as well as all the daffodil seed I was producing? I had to make a heart breaking choice; I had to give up growing my National flower, the daffodil, and grow tulips.

There was now a clash of interest, I wanted to pollinate, Beryl wanted to show. One flower, ‘Bessie’ Flame, led to quite a heated argument. It was a poor break and I wanted to pollinate it. Beryl said it was a good break and wanted to show it. Reluctantly I gave way and Beryl showed it. As we entered the hall, we passed Sarah coming out. She remarked “That’s a nice bloom Beryl”. It was and it took the prize for best bloom in the show. It had been grown from a bulb given to us by James the previous year. I still hang my head in shame determined that it would not happen again. History repeated itself ten years later, I rejected one bloom from our twelve breeder entry and rejected the same bloom from our nine and again from the six bloom entry. Beryl objected to my three decisions and put her foot down and insisted it went into the three bloom class. Needless to say, it was best bloom in the show. My only excuse is that I am slightly colour blind.

Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31 July 2007 (unaudited)

Receipts				Payments	
	2007	2006		2007	2006
Subscriptions	770.00	1183.50	Insurance	153.00	151.00
Donations	0.00	120.00	Postage	243.38	270.47
Bank Interest	20.75	40.54	Newsletter	682.90	395.00
Dividends	25.84	22.13	Printing/Stationary	164.90	245.55
Share value change	77.73	142.54	Engraving of trophies	422.50	103.34
Sales table value change	-236.97	-254.80	Library Books	95.50	0.00
Bulb distribution	0.00	0.00	Bulb distribution	44.90	73.58
Sales table	905.22	1,964.52	Sales table	373.75	410.54
Profit A G M	91.51	198.73	Hall deposit (2008)	20.00	0.00
Profit/Loss Main Show	-5.69	163.06	Other	15.50	0.00
Prize money	0.00	83.50	Prize money	0.00	158.55
			Cost of Exhibition	-195.00	413.73
			Operating surplus/loss	-372.94	1,441.96
Total	1648.39	3,663.72	Total	1648.39	3,663.72

Statement of Assets	2007	2006
Current Account	2827.88	3294.69
Abbey Account	3294.84	3248.25
Abbey Shares	818.35	740.62
Sales table value	1553.07	1790.04
Owed to Hon. Sec.	-322.66	-526.96
YSP stock	1002.23	1067.23
Cheques to be paid in	170.97	0.00
Owed to RHS	-193.75	0.00
Total	9150.93	9613.87

Y S P Exhibition Stock

Income from catalogues	260.00	
Cost of catalogues	-65.00	
Profit	195.00	
Catalogues in stock	495.00	560.00
Framed photographs	507.23	507.23

AGM October 2006

Raffle	87.00	Hall hire	26.00
Refreshments	86.00	Crockery hire	40.89
Plant sales	15.40	Speaker	30.00
		Profit	91.51
Total	188.40	Total	188.40

Main Show 12 May 2007

Raffle	68.00	Hall hire	102.00
Plant sales	75.00	Goblets	104.00
Sale of blooms	41.85	Gratuities	20.00
Sale of food	42.00	Cakes	6.54
Cost of show	5.69		
Total	232.54	Total	232.54

