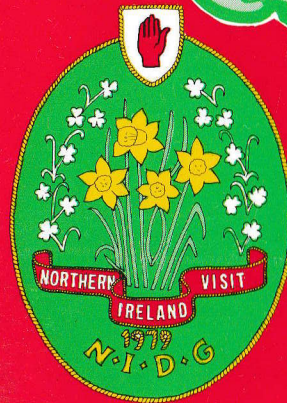


# Newsletter

of the  
**Northern Ireland  
Daffodil Group**



Half-yearly publication of the  
**Northern Ireland Daffodil Group**

OCTOBER 1982  
ISSUE

# The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group



## Objects

The purpose for which the Society is established is the advancement of horticultural education through the study of the genus *Narcissus* and in furtherance of such purpose:

- (i) to promote public participation in the said educational purpose;
- (ii) to promote the establishment of public gardens or of display beds in such gardens which include plantings of *Narcissus* bulbs;
- (iii) to provide bulb stocks for plantings within para (ii) above;
- (iv) to promote, or advance scientific or practical research into the breeding, cultivation, and production of *Narcissus* cultivars;
- (v) to promote, or advance the study of *Narcissus* diseases and pests with particular reference to making Northern Ireland an international centre for the production of healthy stocks of *Narcissus*;
- (vi) to promote, or advance the production of new and improved cultivars of *Narcissus* by hybridisation, and the increase of stocks of the best types of existing cultivars;
- (vii) to publish, or assist in the publication of scientific and practical information and to publish a journal in respect of the activities of the Society;
- (viii) to promote, or advance the holding of shows, lectures, meetings, and displays which include exhibits of material relating to the *Narcissus* and to which the public is admitted, and wherever held throughout the World;
- (ix) to promote, or sponsor the promotion of classes for *Narcissus* at any Horticultural Show including the provision of trophies, cups, or prizes for such classes;
- (x) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to judge classes or exhibits of *Narcissus* at any Horticultural Show or at any Show or display having such a class or exhibit;
- (xi) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to give lectures, or to provide exhibits relating to the *Narcissus*;
- (xii) to aid, and to receive aid from the Departments of Agriculture in Northern Ireland, and for England, Wales, and Scotland, or from any body or person whether incorporated or not and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere, which has objects which include the purpose of the Society and which aid will advance the purpose of the Society;
- (xiii) to grant financial aid to meet in whole or in part the travel costs of a person provided or nominated by the Society to act as a judge at a Show within para (x) above, or to give a lecture or provide an exhibit within para (xi) above, or to provide a trophy, cup or prize at a Show within para (ix) above, whether or not such person is a member of the Society;
- (xiv) to accept subscriptions and gifts (whether of real, chattel real or personal assets), devises and bequests;
- (xv) to borrow, or raise, or secure the payment of money by mortgage or otherwise;
- (xvi) generally to manage, invest, and expend all the property and monies of the Society;
- (xvii) to affiliate or associate with any body or person whether incorporated or not, and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere;
- (xviii) to do all such other acts which lawfully are incidental to the purpose of the Society.

## THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP NEWSLETTER

October, 1982

Vol. 2 No. 1

### OFFICERS OF THE GROUP

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T. BLOOMER	Liaison with Guy Wilson Memorial Gardens, N.U.U.
W. J. TOAL	Liaison with Daffodil Growers
H. S. C. COCHRANE	Liaison with Ministry of Agriculture

R. STERLING Editor of Newsletter

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual	£2.00 per year (4 dollars)
Family	£3.00 per year (6 dollars)

# Chairman's Remarks

The 1982 season will be remembered for its hot, dry days and cold, frosty nights. This combination wreaked havoc with the substance of our flowers. On my return from London, I was appalled at the number of flowers which had opened much too quickly.

The early season caused fears for the later shows but, once again, our exhibitors showed what a resourceful lot they are. By the judicious use of refrigerators they rallied to the Ballymena and Omagh Shows on 28th April and 1st May respectively. Many good flowers at the latter show had been salvaged for Ballymena for re-exhibition. What a change for our growers! Normally we are trying to "cook" the flowers to have them ready in time.

I was pleased to be able to attend and exhibit at each and every show in the Province. This enabled me to renew acquaintances which my enforced absence in 1981 had prevented — my thanks to all for their kindness and hospitality.

The N.I. Amateur Championship, whilst a personal success, was disappointing. The creation of the class was intended to encourage exhibitors to travel. This has proved not to be the case, with only Gilnahirk and Ballymena attracting more than 3 entries. At Enniskillen and Omagh, I had the class to myself.

Please consider amendments to our regulations for this class as I intend to raise the matter at our next A.G.M. I feel that ALL shows should count towards the Championship rather than the present 4. In addition, the agreed prizes are a heavy drain on our financial resources. A trophy for the winner and bulb vouchers for the runners-up would be more appropriate.

We did not have all the visitors we had hoped for, but nevertheless were very pleased to welcome the Ramseys (New Zealand), Mary Lou Gripshover (U.S.A.), Mrs. B. Abel-Smith and George Tarry (England). We hope they enjoyed their time with us. It was a delight to see that doyen of "Daffodilites" — Billy Toal — being sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to take an active part at our shows. It was my greatest personal pleasure to meet once again at Ballymena the Rev. Dr. Robert Strawbridge, a life-long friend of the late Guy L. Wilson. He was looking remarkably well for a nonagenarian!

In conclusion, I trust your bulbs have lifted well, that your planting will go with a swing, and my best wishes for a happy and contented hibernation until our flowers bloom again in 1983.

S. McCABE

June, 1982

# SPRINGWORLD 84

INCORPORATING THE 3rd WORLD DAFFODIL CONVENTION

NEWSLETTER NUMBER ONE, JULY 1982

Planning is well advanced for the international convention, show and tours. Your Downunder hosts are busily preparing themselves for the anticipated influx of overseas visitors. This is the first of a series of newsletters designed to keep you apprised of progress. Please spread the news and encourage your horticulturally-minded friends to get on the mailing list — the first step to a Downunder holiday. Once you hear of the good things planned we hope you are like us — able to resist anything but temptation!

## TOUR PLANNING

This is well under way and is in the hands of Phil Phillips and an accredited travel agent. They are putting together three modules which can be taken as a package, individually or in pairs. They are:

Module One — The Oz Tour of Victoria and Tasmania, with the preliminary planning in the hands of the Australian Daffodil Society; featuring magnificent Australian scenery and a range of daffodil shows.

Module Two — from September 12th-20th, the Convention Module and the Springworld show. See below for details. Followed up by a tour of the North Island — private homes and gardens, fishing, golf, etc.

Module Three — September 21st-30th, the South Island section. Marvellous lakes, mountains, glaciers, rivers, etc., culminating at the South Island National Daffodil Show in Christchurch.

## THE CONVENTION

Sixteen sub-committees have been set up to get things going. All kinds of entertainments are planned — a civic reception and luncheon hosted by Hamilton's Mayor, a banquet, ball, a slice-of-N.Z.-life cabaret, Maori concerts, etc. A number of international experts will be approached to give learned papers and to lead the range of symposia and colloquia. A talk-fest with the world's leading daffodil authorities!

## SPRINGWORLD 84

This will be the largest horticultural exhibition ever held in the Southern Hemisphere, and will probably surpass Harrogate and equal Chelsea! It will be something completely different, with flora and fauna integrated with imaginative use of audio-visual media into an unusual mosaic. It will be staged in New Zealand's largest hall — 90,000 square feet of space. Also featured will be a range of the fine arts — pottery, painting, spinning, weaving, carving, porcelain, artistry as well as displays by hobbies groups. There will be live entertainment throughout the show's duration.

So all-in-all a tour, show, convention package is being developed which represents a once in a lifetime chance. Join us in Oz and Kiwiland for Springworld 84. and bring a friend or friends, or friend of friends. We look forward to meeting you.

# THE LATEST AND BEST: DIVISION 4 SHOW DOUBLES

R. McMULLAN

Because of the limited number of classes available to the exhibitor coupled with a general reluctance by horticulturists to consider doubled flowers as natural, the number of doubled varieties of daffodils was limited. When I first took up this hobby I was not sure if I liked doubles, however I have come to accept and like them. I do not grow many but those I do must have good form as this is essential for a good show double. I list below varieties I have grown or have seen many times on the show bench.

'Acropolis' — well-rounded medium-size white and red, very consistent. Only problem is a tendency to late flowering and occasional small flowers.

'Fiji' — good consistent, round, all-yellow double.

'Gay Challenger' — large white and orange — good form when seen on the bench but may lack consistency as it is seen only occasionally and is still pricey.

'Hawaii' — good-size yellow and red. Generally consistent, sometimes lacks petal in the centre and fades when ageing.

'Manly' — large pale yellow with deep orangey-yellow centre. Has been seen more often on the show bench and winning prizes recently.

'Papua' — well-rounded all-yellow, good form when well grown, on occasions has a good centre.

'Tahiti' — lovely yellow and red, consistent and probably the best of this colour range.

'Tonga' — similar to 'Tahiti' but not as consistent and a little smaller.

'Unique' — the flower which won more awards over the last three years than any other double. A beautiful white and yellow with great size and form.

Some of the older varieties such as 'Candida' (white/primrose), 'Double Event' (white/yellow), 'Gay Time' (white/red), 'White Lion' (white/yellow) may be seen but do not have the form to compete with the above. Of the new varieties 'Gay Song' (white), 'Gay Kybo' (cream/orange), 'Tamar Fire' (red/yellow), 'Bere Ferrers' (white/orange), 'Smokey Bear' (orange/red) appear to have a future and will be seen more often on the bench. Some nice pink doubles are coming on the scene but are still very pricey and they have not been exhibited in any number to be included in my list. If I was limited to four varieties I would pick 'Acropolis' and 'Unique' for white ground varieties and 'Tahiti' and 'Papua' for yellow varieties.

## DOUBLE DAFFODILS

D. BARNES

In my childhood I used to pick wild daffodils each Spring and it always gave me great pleasure when I found a flower with its trumpet completely filled with petaloids. This was my first experience of natural hybrid and double daffodils and started my interest in these flowers.

The double daffodils so casually called Division 4, are blooms that one either likes with a romantic fervour or hates with just as much passion. Although they are all lumped into the one Division the differences of form are significant and the different cultivars look so dissimilar that it is impossible to identify one typical cultivar. It is almost necessary to consider separate sub-divisions based on form — the narrow well filled petals producing a camelia-like bloom through to wide sparsely-filled bloom reminiscent of a water lily. Hybridisation, which will not be covered in this article, has led to a whole range of colours and combinations of colour and regrettably many find most favour amongst the flower arrangers.

Many growers regard Doubles as a necessary evil to give the required coverage in major cup classes. This has resulted in many cultivars being discarded to concentrate upon those with a high degree of consistency. Most commercial lists only include a limited range of cultivars, but they all deserve consideration as no cultivar is totally consistent.

It is perhaps no surprise to note that the majority of double cultivars were raised by J. L. Richardson, but fortunately there has been a revival of interest and more breeders are "having a go" so that we may see a number of improved cultivars in the future.

The "island series" are perhaps still of significance. They are fairly readily available and have the ability to produce the occasional quality bloom. My own preference is 'Fiji' but I still cannot get the intensity of colour that Jim Pearce achieves (and he is not identifying his secret ingredient). 'Papua' and 'Tahiti' lack refinement and they have an unfortunate habit of coming with deformed inner petaloids. 'Hawaii' is regarded as a very strong-growing and tall cultivar, its scarcity implies some inherent weakness of constitution, size and form are not ideal but it is perhaps the best colour combination (4Y-R) of the reasonable priced cultivars. Other island names were registered but twenty years on they are only rarely seen.

The 'Gay' series of flowers were registered over a considerable time period ('Gaytime' 1952: 'Gay Kybo' 1980) and represent many different forms and different inner petaloid colours. 'Gay Song' is a large coarse bloom but is one of the few all-white doubles — it is difficult to use in a collection because of its size and lack of refinement. 'Gay Challenger' was registered in 1962 and was awarded a First Class Certificate in 1972 and I still regard the vase staged for its award as one of the finest vases of doubles that I have seen; the bloom is not very full but it is very clean and clinical in whiteness with very rich colouring in the inner petaloids — price is now reducing and it may have its uses amongst exhibitors. 'Gay Kybo' was not registered until 1980 but is available to exhibitors and, judging by comments during the 1982 season, it is regarded by many as being of ideal form and consistency — it has certainly jumped to the top end of the popularity stakes, but to my mind the bloom never produces a flat perianth and there is always a hint of grey to the colouring or at best it should be classed as a 4 cream-cream orange, orange cultivar.

Other Richardson-raised cultivars are still important and useful to the exhibitor, amongst those I find most useful are the following:

'Double Event' — is a latish 4W-Y which is of nice contrast inclined to be "folded" in the inner petaloids but lacks the refinement of other cultivars that it would have to compete with in main season.

'**Takoradi**' — registered in 1963 as an all-white flower rarely comes pure white throughout, however it is of very neat form and does well in pots if you can manage to get hold of any bulbs now.

'**Bere Ferrers**' (4W-O) — has found some favour with exhibitors since its registration in 1979 as indeed has 'Manly' (4Y-O) but to me the blooms are only occasionally good but both are capable of producing good sized blooms. Many people now regard 'Tamar Fire' (4Y-R) as the best of this colour combination; certainly it is a very neat flower and does not show the nicking and creasing usually inherent in doubles, but even the acknowledged experts find it difficult to get a large flower.

'**Ocarino**' (4Y-O) — is a useful late cultivar that can produce some good flowers from the open ground.

Perhaps the best Richardson double is 'Unique' (4W-Y) and although it was registered in 1961 it does not appear to be showing any signs of deterioration. To me it is of good form, not my ideal, well set and capable of good size. Its show bench consistency marks it as an exhibitors "must" but it still requires good cultivation and cannot be left to its own devices. It is perhaps unfortunate that some stocks are now virus-infected.

Other breeders have been responsible for some good doubles but they are in short supply. Worthy of comment and in sequence of registration:

'**Eastertide**' (4X-Y) 1959. A good bright flower of different form that is useful for collections because of its neatness and size.

'**Beauvallon**' (4Y-ORR) 1961. A super flower from D. A. Lloyd that is extremely scarce but is one of the more consistent cultivars of this colouring.

'**Andria**' (4W-O) 1962. Registered by D. A. Lloyd, again very scarce and really a collection flower. The glowing orange petaloids make it a noticeable bloom and it is not entirely consistent from season to season but can still do well. It does lack petaloids and does have a rather weak neck, but if its form of 1980 can be repeated it is worth the attention.

'**Kinbrace**' (4W-P) 1968. A J. S. B. Lea double of good form and colour. It was my first pink double and perhaps that is why I still persevere with it. It can produce good blooms and occasionally does not open itself out fully.

'**Achentoul**' (4W-ORR) 1970. Another J. S. B. Lea double. It is not a very full flower but has substance and intensity of colouring. The whiteness of perianth makes it a nice collection flower.

'**Replete**' (4W-P) 1975. An American-raised pink that has a good colouring. It can produce good blooms but I find it a little temperamental.

'**Grebe**' (4Y-R) 1979. Raised by G. Mitsch and my ideal double in terms of its form. A lot of petaloids set against a very round perianth and an intensity of colouring. Rather difficult to fit into a collection because it appears perhaps too full for many tastes.

'**Spun Honey**' (4Y-Y) 1979. Another Mitsch cultivar which has in my view a good future. Not such a full flower as 'Grebe' but has plenty of substance and is a nice round flower. It is rather an unusual lemon-yellow which helps it to blend into a collection.

'**Angkar**' (4Y-Y) 1980. Formerly listed as 'Trend' by G. Mitsch and a very large flower. It has a long neck and has few petaloids but gives the impression of being a proper double. Again it has a delightful pale yellow colouring.

There are others that I have grown but have not been identified above, that I will persevere with, knowing that they can still produce the odd good bloom, such cultivars as 'Acropolis' and 'Eriskay'.

As yet I have not grown B. Duncan's 'Smokey Bear' which is really 4O-R and doing so well on the show bench. However, short of physical violence such a good-looking bloom is not readily going to leave the protection of Northern Ireland.

There are other doubles, still under number from J. Blanchard, C. Postles, G. Tarry that look to have potential; but these are all future prospects that will strengthen the Division and may even compete successfully against 'Unique'.

To identify my favoured cultivars is not easy but I will try.

4W-W — '**Takoradi**'

4W-Y — '**Unique**'

4W-RO — '**Andria**'

4Y-Y — '**Spun Honey**'

4Y-RO — '**Grebe**'

This does not mean I would willingly get rid of any other cultivars but these five do really represent the best of the Division.



N. 'Unique'

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

A reminder to our Officers and Committee that they have committed themselves to supply the booklet "Daffodils in Ireland" and bulbs to schools. As it is now the time to supply the books and bulbs I would hope that the project is not shelved for another year.

It would be to the advantage of the members if for the incoming year the meetings, etc., could be moved around the Province — at least members would get a "home" draw at least once a year!

Our Chairman-elect for the incoming year, Mr. Jack Carlisle, who is based in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, will cover many miles during his term of office. I would suggest a week-end sightseeing and meetings in Donegal arranged by Jack.

This issue of the "Newsletter" heralds the second volume and my retirement as Editor. I have enjoyed my involvement as Treasurer, Secretary and Editor, but this year I retire from business and I would not have the time and facilities to cope with the "Newsletter", so my best wishes to you all.

# When the Daffodils are over

NEIL FLETCHER

1 Halkyn Avenue, Sefton Park, Liverpool

One of the major headaches for the gardener at this time of the year is knowing when to cut back the sprawling mass of dying daffodil foliage.

An interesting experiment, which was begun 10 years ago by officials at the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley in Surrey, goes a long way to resolving the problem.

The gardeners at Wisley planted 4 rows of identical groups of assorted daffodil bulbs. Throughout the 10-year experimental period the first row was left undisturbed, the second row was cut down two weeks after the end of flowering, the third row four weeks after flowering and the fourth row six weeks after flowering.

The following year's flowers were then assessed on a five-point scale ranging from "non-existent" to "good". The results were as follows:

Row 1 — The control group (left undisturbed)	46 points
Row 2 — Foliage cut after two weeks	5 points
Row 3 — Foliage cut after four weeks	35 points
Row 4 — Foliage cut after six weeks	53 points

It seems fairly evident, therefore, that daffodils do not, as it is often claimed, have to be left to die down naturally; but nor should they be cut back too early. And although no precise information is available concerning the widespread practice of tying the untidy foliage in knots, it is strongly suspected that if done at too early a juncture, the consequences for the daffodils would be just as lethal as if the leaves had been completely severed. P.S. Gardeners are usually agonising over this problem any time from mid-May until early June.

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## OBITUARY

MR. RON McMULLAN

The daffodil fraternity throughout the world will be saddened by the sudden death of Ron McMullan in August of this year.

Ron was a highly respected National Judge for Vegetables, Chrysanthus and Daffodils — a dedicated grower and exhibitor who always had time to give sound advice to the novice. He gave valuable service to many committees and his death leaves gaps that will be very difficult to fill.

Ron McMullan was a working member of the N.I.D.G. and made frequent trips to Northern Ireland to judge, exhibit and join in the social activities of the Group.

The Officers and Members of the N.I.D.G. tender their sincere sympathy to Rosemary and the family circle.

B.S.

## LOCAL SHOW REPORTS

The local show season commenced on 3rd April with Bangor Horticultural Society being the hosts. The show was well supported with a good cross-section of exhibitors from across the Province.

Many good blooms were on display and 'Burntollet' shown by Sandy McCabe was adjudged best bloom. He was also successful in the first round of the N.I. Amateur Championship with a group where its lack of colour was more than offset by the quality of flowers staged. Flowers noted were 'Amber Castle' and 'Old Satin'. Bob Sterling's second-placed entry contained excellent blooms of 'Rivendell' and 'Norval', while in third place came Gilbert Andrews with fine specimens of 'My Love' and 'Crater'.

Among the single bloom entries, varieties which caught the eye were Mr. Sterling's 'Lancelot', 'Cyros', 'Aircastle' and 'Rimmon': Carncairn's 'Golden Aura', 'Achduart': Ballydorn's 'April Love', 'Arctic Gold' and McCabe's 'Acropolis'.

Gilnahirk Show on 10th April was, in our correspondent's opinion, the biggest and best show ever. Competitors came from Dublin, Omagh, Ballymena, Bangor and Portadown, combining to give the judges many headaches. The second round of the Amateur Championship attracted 8 entries with Bertie Eakins gaining 1st place with an immaculate group. No details of the flowers in this class are available but Mr. Sterling again secured 2nd place and G. Martin 3rd.

The Best Bloom award went to Michael Ward from Dublin with 'Achduart'. Other flowers of note were by the same exhibitor — 'Camelot' and 'Orotavo': Mr. Eakins' 'Golden Rapture' grown to the size that only Bertie can achieve and George Marsden's 'Strines' which was adjudged Best Intermediate Bloom.

Hillsborough on 17th April attracted fine quality blooms but some classes were poorly supported. The judging panel was enhanced by the inclusion of Mrs. Mary Lou Gripshover from Tennessee. The third round of the Amateur Championship saw Bertie Eakins being again successful with the minor placings going to Sandy McCabe (2), Sam Bankhead (3) and Gilbert Andrews (4). The Best Bloom Award went to Sandy McCabe for the second time in two weeks. His perfect 'Lancelot' got the verdict over Sam Bankhead's 'Burntollet' and Carncairn's 'White Star'. Other fine varieties displayed were Eakins' 'Silver Blaze' and 'Fiji' and Gilbert Andrews' 'Advocat'.

### ENNISKILLEN

Enniskillen Show on 24th April owed much of its success to our professional growers who were there in force.

Intermediate and Novice Sections were really a battle between Fred White, George Marsden and our newest recruit — John Ennis — all from Omagh.

The main class called for 9 varieties, each staged singly. Brian Duncan came first with a group of flowers all raised by him. The most impressive flowers in the entry were 'Dr. Hugh' (which won Best Bloom Award) — 'High Society' and 'Smokey Bear'. Carncairn came second with an excellent entry amongst which 'Loughanmore' was outstanding. Michael Ward made the long trip from Dublin and was rewarded with third place showing an excellent 'Don Carlos'. Ballydorn came fourth with fine examples of 'Four Ways' and 'Lisbane'.

Michael Ward picked up the Northern Bank Cup for most points in the Open Section and the R.U.C. Cup for 6 Ulster-raised varieties.

Among the many fine flowers noted in the Single Bloom Classes were fine examples of 1Y-Y 'Shane's Castle': 1W-Y 'Downpatrick' and 2W-P 'Romance'. Ballydorn excelled (as we have come to expect) in the Division 3 Varieties. We particularly noted 'Favour Royal', 'Gransha', 'High Tower' and again 'Lisbane'.

The Amateur Championship attracted only one entry from Sandy McCabe whose best flower was 'Golden Jewel'.

The aforementioned Fred White had many excellent entries in the Intermediate Section and is capable of winning many prizes in the Open Classes. John Ennis scooped the Novice Award to gain promotion to the Intermediate.

A notable absentee from the staging room was Jack Carlisle. He was present at the Show but his flowers had suffered badly in the extreme winter and he had no entries. We look forward to having him compete again in 1983.

### BALLYMENA

Ballymena Show on 28th April was very well supported despite the early season. It appeared as if every exhibitor had decided to bring all remaining flowers for exhibition.

The Championship of Ireland was hosted at Ballymena and in what must have been an extremely close contest, Rathowen got the verdict over Carncairn. Many spectators felt that the result could have gone either way.

The same comment could have been applied to the Royal Mail Trophy but here Carncairn obtained their revenge and relegated Rathowen to second place. Carncairn continued their monopoly of the Roesse Bowl which is awarded for 5 American-raised varieties.

The Open Classes were heavily contested. Again Rathowen and Carncairn figured prominently with a number of "lesser lights" picking up several awards. Best of these were Bertie Eakins who won the medal for highest points for Amateurs in all open classes. Bertie had a good show because he came third in the Championship of Ireland, won the Northern Bank Trophy for the best unregistered seedling (a Ballydorn seedling) and won the Ballymena heat of the Amateur Championship.

Best Bloom Award went to 'Dr. Hugh' exhibited by Rathowen. Recently this variety has secured quite a number of best bloom awards.

The Omagh influence was evident in the Intermediate and Novice Sections. Fred White, Omagh, had to admit defeat to Tracey Bankhead from Ballymena in the former section but was, no doubt, consoled when his 'Woodland Prince' was adjudged Best Intermediate Bloom.

George Marsden continued his considerable run of success in winning the Novice Section. He also showed the best Novice bloom with Bloomer's 'Woodland Star'.

We look forward to these three graduating to the higher classes and perhaps increasing the entries in the 1983 Amateur Championship.

The formal shows ended with Omagh on 1st May where Carncairn pipped Rathowen in the 12-bloom Class. Best flowers were 'Oykel', 'Pale Sunshine' and 'Royal Wedding'. Rathowen had good blooms of 'Roseate Tern', 'High Society' and 'Daydream'. The same placings resulted in the American Class with Carncairn's 'Aircastle' and Rathowen's 'Cool Crystal' taking the eye. Best Bloom in the show went to Carncairn's 'Oykel' and the other Best

Blooms Awards were given to Rathowen's 'Drumragh' in Division 1. 'High Society' (Division 2) and 'Hexameter' (any other Division). Sandy McCabe's 'Unique' was adjudged best in Division 4.

Fred White and George Marsden on their home ground continued their successful season with George's 'Woodland Star' winning best intermediate bloom and Fred being successful in gaining most points in this section. The Novice Section was easily won by William Dukelow where 'Irish Rover' was Best Novice Bloom.

## LONDON SHOW REPORT

WILLIAM DUKELOW

The London Show held on 14th and 15th of April once again had a large Irish influence, with impressive trade stands from Rathowen Daffodils and Carncairn Daffodils.

The aforementioned also had a large number of entries in the competitive sections where Tom Bloomer also entered a number of interesting seedlings and John Ennis made a creditable debut entry in the novice section.

One of the most pleasing and far-reaching aspects of the Show was the second placing of Brian Duncan in the Engleheart Challenge Cup, which requires twelve blooms, raised by the exhibitor. Mr. John Lea once again took the Cup with good blooms of 'Achduart' which was awarded best bloom in the show and 'Gold Convention', reserve best bloom. 'Loch Lundie' and 'Pitchroy' were also excellent. It was Brian Duncan's second place, however, after a mere ten years or so exhibiting that was the greatest step forward. He eased out Mr. Blanchard after so many years in third place. His twelve included superb blooms of 'Pismo Beach', 'Rivendell' and 'Lighthouse'. An entry was also put in for Tom Bloomer which was a credit to his many years hybridising, indeed before judging it was a brave man who would judge between Brian Duncan's twelve and Tom Bloomer's. Outstanding were 'White Star' and 'Golden Jewel'. Kate Reade also entered a creditable twelve.

A new class for three blooms each of six white cultivars in memory of Guy Wilson was won by John Lea with excellent groups of 'Ben Hee' and 'Pitchroy'. Wilson Stewart was second with Rathowen third exhibiting only Rathowen-bred flowers, the best being 'Silver Surf', 'White Majesty' and 'Regal Bliss'. Rathowen won the three stems, three cultivars doubles with good 'Pink Paradise' and 'Smokey Bear' and the Pinks with good 'Roseate Tern'; and were second in the overseas collection with Carncairn achieving third place.

In the single bloom classes Wilson Stewart was difficult to beat. He again won highest points and Best Division 1 with a strong 'Newcastle' and Lea's 'Gold Convention' won its class. Rathowen was second in the Whites with 'Majestic Star'.

Rathowen had best bloom in Division 2 with 'Gettysburg' and also won with 'Bit O Gold'. They also had success with D.720, 'Ohio' and D.592. Tom Bloomer got a second with B.200, Noel Burr won with a good 'Irish Light' and other good winners were Lea's 'Loch Brora'; Stewart's 'Daydream', 'Strines' and 'Desdemona'.

In Division 3 Rathowen's 'Lighthouse' was best bloom with 'Delos' also winning. R.169, 'Rivendell', 'Mount Angel' and 'Altruist' also got prizes.

Other good blooms were Stewart's 'Lemonade' and Noel Burr's 'Altruist'.

Elsewhere 'Smokey Bear' and 'Silver Bells' won for Rathowen with 'Backchat', D.419 and 'Gracious Lady' coming second. Stewart's 'Unique' won best bloom, Division 4 and he also had good blooms of 'Sea Green' and 'Charity May'. Carncairn also had some successes.

There were four daffodil trade stands with Carncairn and Rathowen by far the biggest. Carncairn received a well-deserved silver-gilt medal for a large stand which celebrated their 25 years of showing at London.

The Rathowen stand was thirty-five feet long and was thought by many to be the best ever. It was certainly put up with considerable speed, due no doubt, to some eleven helpers at various stages. The stand received its ninth successive Gold Medal, the only one awarded this year.

In the novice section John Ennis from Omagh, exhibiting anywhere for only the second time, had a number of good blooms on show including 'Tudor Minstrel', 'Daydream' and 'Honeybird' which won its class. He was second in the group of twelve with good 'Doubtful' and 'April Flame'. Mr. Turner was first in this class with good 'Aircastle', 'Golden Sovereign' and 'Drumboe' and went on to win the Blanchard prize for highest points. He also achieved best bloom in the novice with 'Bit O Gold'.

With his determination to come back and try again it should not be too long before John Ennis brings the Blanchard prize back to Northern Ireland. The Show itself was better than last year and once again had many pleasing successes for the Irish Group.

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## OBITUARY

### MRS. AMY MITSCH

Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Amy Mitsch of Canby, Oregon, U.S.A. and will wish to be associated with the floral tribute and message of sympathy sent on behalf of the N.I.D.G.

Mrs. Mitsch was a gentle, gracious and cheerful lady whose invaluable support helped her husband produce new daffodils which now adorn the gardens of enthusiasts throughout the world. It is good to know that the daffodil work will be continued by the Mitschs' daughters, Mrs. Elise Havens and Mrs. Eileen Frey.

To Grant and the family circle we extend our sincere sympathy.

Editor

## TO SHOW OR NOT TO SHOW

A. W. CHAPPELL

The following article appeared in the Daffodil Society Journal just received.

### SHOW REGULATIONS

The following regulations have been agreed and will apply at all future shows of the Daffodil Society.

### COLOUR CLASSIFICATION

When a cultivar has been registered and colour coded, it can only be exhibited in classes for a specified colour in accordance with its colour code as shown in the current edition of "Daffodils to Show and Grow" published jointly by the Royal Horticultural Society and the American Daffodil Society. Any cultivar which is exhibited in a class other than that shown in "Daffodils to Show and Grow" may be marked by the judges "Not According to Schedule".

In collection classes where colours are not specified, a cultivar which does not conform to the colour code shown in "Daffodils to Show and Grow" may be down-pointed at the discretion of the judges.

Seedlings and unregistered cultivars may be exhibited in accordance with the colour of the bloom at the time of the show.

What a load of poppycock; this would mean that if 'Daydream' was shown in a Class of 12-3's and all blooms not completely reversed it may be down-pointed as it is a 2Y-W in D.T.S.A.G.

Too many flowers are registered with their usual flowery descriptions purely for commercial purposes. Take 'Cairngorm', registered and in D.T.S.A.G. as 2Y-WPP yet Jack Goldsmith (and I don't doubt his judgement) describes it in "Daffodils 1979" Page 40 as a self-yellow. The same would apply to 'Amber Castle'. More important, flowers which do not measure correctly in the Classes in which they are registered should be down-pointed. Again too many are registered as Division 3 for their commercial value only. How often do 'Achduart', 'Ulster Bank' and 'Rockall' measure Division 2, to name but a few. Also 'Empress of Ireland' and 'Newcastle' quite often are only Division 2 flowers. I read where Guy Wilson when told that 'Empress of Ireland' was not a trumpet, he replied "I have never measured it. It looked like a trumpet."

Daffodils should be judged as they are presented and any judge worth his salt should know whether they comply with the schedule or not. I agree with Phil Phillips' article in the A.D.S. Journal that exhibitors should be encouraged and not scared off by too many finicky regulations.

I trust that here in New Zealand common sense will prevail. "Daffodils to Show and Grow" is a very useful book for any exhibitor who wishes to know the description of cultivars he or she is not familiar with, or to check that bulbs purchased are true to name.

In the 1981-2 Daffodil Year Book 'Amber Castle' gained an A.M. as a 2Y-WYY and there is no mention of any pink colouring which adds to my contention that daffodils should be judged as presented. Naturally a flower that has properly reversed will take preference over once only half reversed all other things being equal.



# BILLY TOAL

W. J. A. DOUGLAS



I liked that letter that dropped through my letter-box one Saturday morning; it was blunt, direct and no messing about. It was from the Hon. Editor informing me that "I had been elected" to write Profile No. 2. Somehow there is a deep feeling inside me that Bob and I share a kindred commonness — we both like the Committee of One — democratically elected of course!

It was however an honour, a very great honour, to be asked, out of the world-wide circle of friends that Billy has, for he has no enemies. We have known each other for over half a century and have shared many, many great times together. I can say without any hesitation whatsoever that he is a gentleman par excellence.

I suppose it was through our common interest in the Boy Scouts that we first met for we often, as inveterate weekend campers, used to visit a lovely estate not far from Billy's home and invariably called at his home on a Saturday evening for we always knew there was plenty of tea to be had! My older brother had taken over the leadership of a Scout Troop and Billy joined forces in assisting him and it was the measure of his enthusiasm and dedication that it was no trouble to him to cycle some eight miles either way to our weekly meetings. He was residing then where he was born, some three miles from Portadown and was in the service of the Great Northern Railway. When he was transferred to Dublin on promotion he lived until his retirement in Dun Laoghaire, when he resumed his connections with the North and is now residing at Dunmurry, just on the outskirts of Belfast.

I well remember Billy's home, for he was blessed with a wonderful father and mother who were "gentle-folk" in every way — direct, sincere and kindness personified. They were gems of the first order, great, great lovers of the country and its people; possessing a great faith that gave them the roots to their great and staunch characters. His father was the friend and counsellor of all; a man many went to for guidance for he was one of great natural wisdom and didn't utter a word until he had deeply looked at all sides. Should there be the slightest difference between neighbours it was to James Toal that they turned and it was he who could see the true purpose; could smooth the way ahead and pour oil into the wheels that brought peace and tranquillity again in plenty. Is it any wonder then that Billy possesses these great qualities in abundance? To me life has always been the richer for knowing such sincere and kind people as his father and mother.

After his arrival in Dublin it wasn't long before he was immersed in the activities of the Royal Irish Horticultural Society, soon to become its Hon. Treasurer, steering them through the great growth years after the last World War; becoming an Hon. Vice-President and leaving them financially sound for years to come. It was in those great years of the late forties, the fifties and the sixties, when the august Society held their great Spring and Summer Shows that Billy enjoyed, especially the Spring Show that permitted him to enjoy exhibiting his daffodils which he so greatly loved.

It would take a special issue of this bulletin to record his successes but he won the Lord Ardilaun Cup — for 24 Cultivars 3 blooms of each, (none of your twelve singles for them then!) until it was nearly worn out! I think it was on the last occasion that he competed that he practically won every class there was — as he said it was his last. On that day that great fellow-enthusiast, the late Lord Headfort, was second to Billy and duly expressed the thought that had the Show been a week later he would have reversed the position. As one who enjoyed the thrill of competition he suggested to Billy that on the following Saturday there was a Spring Show at Drogheda and that he would put up a Cup for a Special Class (the same over again) to be competed for by the two of them! Billy gratefully accepted the challenge and on the following Saturday duly arrived to find Lord Headfort hard at work. His Lordship had invested quite considerably in new cultivars from Mr. Richardson and Mr. Wilson and no doubt it was his intention to make Billy lift his heels a bit. Staging completed, they duly retired to a nearby hostelry on His Lordship's invitation to refresh themselves and await the judges' verdict. On their return he was amazed to find again that, despite all his purchases and efforts, the red card was on Billy's "twenty-four threes", Billy, having hidden some of his best vases under the bench until the last moment and then popped them out. Being the outstanding gentleman and a sport of the first order he gave directions to return to that hostelry where they celebrated over lunch and champagne the "success of a successful competition and friendship". In what sphere — other than in Irish Rugby — could that happen and friendship be stronger at the end than at the beginning?

Billy enjoyed his twice-yearly sojourns to the London Daffodil Shows where for years on end he assisted Mr. Richardson in those magnificent exhibits which adorned the hall under the clock. On a great many occasions he exhibited with great success, even on one occasion being second in the class for a seedling raised by the exhibitor, with a seedling raised from his most successful variety 'Mexico City'. No mean task for an amateur but being a superb judge of a flower, when he had one good enough he wasn't afraid to take on the "big guns". Indeed on one of his visits to London he brought eight blooms in a box and won seven classes. This was the halcyon days of the Richardsons, Wilsons and Dunlop who were undisputed leaders in the world and I know he always counted it as one of his blessings that he was privileged to be part of this great era and enjoy their companionship. He is a wonderful judge of a flower and invariably when we meet at shows we always somehow finish up quietly wandering round and closely looking at every exhibit — not judging the judges — though we are naturally pleased when they have agreed with us! — but I just love to hear him expressing his pure delight when he comes across blooms that deeply please him. Blooms that are well staged but above all reflect dignity, refinement, elegance, purity and good

carriage for these are the qualities he puts very high on the scale. These are always memorable occasions.

Years ago, in my younger days, when I often visited Guy Wilson, he suggested that we should make a pilgrimage to Waterford to see Mr. Richardson's stock. This was arranged forthwith and when we arrived at our hotel at Tramore we were soon joined by that doyen of daffodil growers and exhibitors, Jack Goldsmith, and the three of us spent a good night together. We had obtained a large bedroom, with its two single beds close enough that we could talk plenty without raising our voices — looking back that bedroom seemed as big as a football pitch! The next morning, Billy had the first of those contraptions to remove whiskers (electric razors) but there was only the overhead light bulb to plug into. When the operation was completed he stood on a chair to unplug it, only to find the chair suddenly unsteady. It wobbled and for support he stretched out to the adjoining wardrobe only to pull that across him on the floor! Fortunately no damage was done and we proceeded to have the most wonderful of days with the Richardsons and Jack. It was "the day of days".

On another occasion when he was with us for the weekend we took to wandering across the fields with the dogs. It was late April or early May for the primroses were out and I shall always remember this morning for Billy was searching the bottom of the hedgerows and was thrilled and delighted at the variations he was finding in the ivies growing there. He loved their beautiful formation, their simple dignity and sheer purity of colour or blendings.

Perusing some Daffodil Year Books of the late fifties and early sixties you find his name frequently there along with that of Profile No. 1 — Tom Bloomer. I particularly like the recording of the 1956 Show in London: "The highest aggregate of points won was gained by Mr. T. Bloomer who carried off the Barr Silver Cup and the Silver Gilt Williams Medal. Mr. Toal ran him close in these classes and actually had more firsts. These Irishmen take a lot of beating". It was also in this year that he was awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society their Medal for "outstanding and distinguished services to Horticulture in Ireland". This award is the equivalent to the Victoria Medal of Honour by the Royal Horticultural Society. This medal is a very restricted award and has only gone to such stalwarts as Sir Frederick Moore, Lord Headfort, etc., and he richly deserved it for no one had done more. It also gave his whole host of friends great joy when was made an Honorary Life Member of the Daffodil Society of New Zealand for during the last World Daffodil Convention of some years ago he widened considerably his world-wide circle of friends. As one who possesses an encyclopaedic knowledge of horticulture and those personalities connected with it in Ireland, he is widely read and his deep understanding of the whole family of plants and trees in the world of Mother Nature amazes me and it is all stored in his mind with love and affection. For years he was Gardening Correspondent to the "Irish Times" and his articles, always well researched, were beautifully written and there flowed through every word the love of the man himself: for a deep love of the whole world of Mother Nature and the beautiful things that grow upon the earth inspired him and he is fortunate in having the ability to express it. He is a supreme judge, a man of absolute integrity, who never speaks ill of another; quiet, with a unique sense of humour; one with a great inner sense of appreciation of beauty as expressed in the flowers, plants and

trees that he loves so much; one with a contentment of mind and tranquillity; one with . . . I could go on for ages for his qualities abound.

I shall never forget during his illness a year ago, going up one night to see him. He motioned me up the stairs, for he had temporarily lost his speech, and rustling through his daffodil bulbs which had still to be planted found the bulb of 'Gracious Lady' and holding it up to me, gave a wink and shake of the head, as much as to say "that will set you back"! I know he was enjoying that moment to its fullest.

On the 8th of April last he celebrated his "three score years and ten plus five" so my wife and I called for him and Louie and made our way to a well-known country hostelry there to be joined by our son John. We had a wonderful lunch, etc. — the afternoon wandered on and somehow we said "Goodbye" to work for the day, drank pots of coffee; returned for more tea and talk; taking a ramble or two in between and eventually left them home for bedtime. It was a great day, for in Billy Toal I have had the best friend ever in my life for that half-century.

Just a year ago he was up with us for the weekend — just good company with plenty of time to talk. We were settling down after our meal on Saturday evening and were deeply involved in discussing daffodils when one person after the other began arriving at the house until you couldn't move in the place. It happened to be the day that I had knocked up my fifty years in Horticulture and completely unknown to me Billy, Rita and John had arranged this surprise party. And there he had sat with the innocence of a saint. It was a great night that stretched far into the morning as good Irish nights do and it seemed right, very right indeed, for him to be there for at our weddings we had been each others best man. In Profile No. 1 Brian wrote of Tom as "*the kind of man I'd like to be*". I wish that I could possess that wonderful sense of contentment; his great peace of mind and tranquillity; his deep love and appreciation of beauty as seen in all the blooms, plants and trees for no one has taught me more about sheer love and appreciation than Billy has.

I have always felt that he and Tom could almost have been twins. The like of the pair of them I don't think we shall ever find and I know everyone will agree with me "that these Irishmen take some beating". On that occasion of his seventy-fifth I raised my glass and toasted his health and hoped that I would be around when we celebrated the next seventy-fifth! His reply I well remember — "We'll have a shot at it"! for I look forward to many more nights at the side of his fire; he sitting there contentedly with his pipe (usually nothing in it), reminiscing and enjoying the things that make life worth living.

Thanks "Sir William", as he is often affectionally addressed, for all you have given and taught us in your own — your very own — quiet and very dignified way. For above all he is not only like Tom — a gentleman, but both are gentle men. I can picture some night when chatting to Billy, he with the glasses pushed up to his forehead or looking over the top of them through a haze of pipe smoke (that's if it's lighted) and quickly saying — "You don't seem to have much to do with your time when you have time to sit down and write". I'll enjoy that for I intend to spend lots more time with you and drink more tea — we seem to consume tanks of the stuff.

Thanks "Sir William" — you are indeed a KNIGHT — and more NIGHTS we'll have together.

# Some New Light on Waterford

D. WILLIS

Ireland has been blessed with a wealth of plant breeders, who not only improved the quality of food crops, such as the potato, but also worked extensively on the improvement of ornamentals such as Potentilla, Escallonia, Viburnum, Roses and Daffodils.

Two hybridists who became world famous for their work of daffodil improvement, which approximately spanned the half century between 1910 and 1960, were Guy L. Wilson and J. Lionel Richardson. Some four years ago I was fortunate in being able to borrow the complete set of breeding records of Guy Wilson which spanned the period from 1912 until his death in 1962. About one year ago I acquired those belonging to the Richardsons which cover every cross made at Waterford between 1928 and 1969.

It was most interesting to compare the styles of these great hybridists for they were very different. In life, I am told by those who knew them personally, Richardson was an extrovert, whereas Wilson was just the opposite. Yet the records show these two men in reversed roles — Wilson only too eager to record, often in great detail, the characteristics of even the most unpromising seedling, while Richardson's comments were terse, often abbreviated and always very much to the point. Additionally Wilson wrote at length on the seasons, people and places visited and the daffodils which he saw, especially those new developments which caught his eye; these reports appearing regularly in his record books between 1912 and 1924. Thereafter Wilson wrote extensively in "The Daffodil and Tulip Year Book", so that he became perhaps more widely known to the general daffodil public than did Richardson. Richardson in fact seldom wrote about his breeding work and on one of the few occasions on which he did Wilson commented "something of this kind from you was long overdue and we could certainly do with some more of it".<sup>1</sup>

The scarcity of material written by this great hybridist has given added value to the recently-acquired records, as they provide a considerable source of information hitherto unknown or which has earlier been either misquoted or misunderstood.

The records themselves consist of various types of material, of which a brief resumé is given below.

## 1. CROSS BOOKS

There are four of these and they show every cross made at Waterford between 1928 and 1969, and so in addition to recording crosses made by J. Lionel Richardson, also list those made by his wife between 1962 and 1969.

Cross Book No.	From	To	Total No. of Crosses	Raiser
1	1928	1938	975	J. L. Richardson
2	1939	1950	1,007	J. L. Richardson
3	1951	1961	686	J. L. Richardson
	1962	1965	329	Mrs. Richardson
4	1966	1969	155	Mrs. Richardson

The Cross Books show that during the 42 years of recorded crosses, which began in 1928 and incidentally coincided with the arrival of Jack Goldsmith at Prospect House, a total of 3,152 crosses were made. These records, however, provide a great deal of additional detailed information which gives an indication of the actual amount of work which took place at Waterford, for

every seed sown was recorded and in all but 11 years the number of seedlings raised is also noted down. The total numbers of seeds sown during the periods covered by the Cross Books are: 1928-38 — 56,601; 1939-50 — 77,843; 1951-65 — 82,127; 1966-69 — 18,640 giving a grand total of 235,211.

Most of the seedlings which resulted from this seed were also recorded — in fact all those from 1928 to 1950, 1957 to 1960 and 1965 to 1966 — giving a total of 99,633. It is possible to arrive at a figure for the whole of the period 1928 to 1969 by utilising the known percentage germination for the fully recorded periods. The approximate number of seedlings handled by the Richardsons at Waterford was 147,000.

## 2. STOCK BOOKS

These number 39 and cover the years dealt with by the Cross Books, with the exception of 1930, the book for this year being missing. The Cross Books and Stock Books have proved to be an invaluable source of information and perhaps at this point it is worthwhile to give a few examples. It was exciting to locate some of those crosses which subsequently made daffodil history — to see, for example, the actual entry made in 1929 which gave rise to 'Falaise'.<sup>2</sup>

Similarly with the crosses which gave rise to 'Kilworth' and 'Arbar' and the crosses which were made between these two cultivars. Also of great interest was the cross which gave rise to the first pink cyclamineus-type hybrid in Ireland, named 'Kelpie'. Although never catalogued it proved to be the forerunner of a kind for which Irish hybridists have recently become well known. There is also a record of a pink double seedling which arose from a cross made as early as 1956 and this flowered in 1962, probably making it the first daffodil of this type to appear in the British Isles and Ireland.

These records have also been useful in tracing parentages previously unknown and the information so gained has been passed on to Dr. Throckmorton for inclusion in the American Daffodil Society Data Bank.<sup>3</sup> Without these books it would have been impossible to name accurately the collection of coloured slides of both seedlings and cultivars, most of which only had a number.

The system of recording used at Prospect House was almost perfect. The only fault which I have found in the system was the use of the same number for several different daffodils over the forty years during which recording was carried out. This happened when an old cultivar or unsuitable seedling was discarded its number being re-allocated to a new daffodil. Hence No. 150 was 'Tiercel' in 1928, 'Cicely' in 1938 and 'Revelry' in 1948, 1958 and 1968. In 1928 No. 434 was referred to as a seedling of unknown parentage, in 1938 the number was unused, 1948 it was a cross between 'Kilkenny' and 'Kingscourt'. In 1958 it was a red and white double from 'Falaise' x 'Arbar' and in 1968 No. 434 was described as "a super 'Green Island'" from No. 359 selfed, this cross being made in 1959. The next step was to find out what No. 359 was and it perhaps seemed reasonable to begin to look for this in the 1968 records, but there it is found to be a red and yellow from 'Cambodia' x 'Vulcan'. If one progresses to 1959, when the cross was actually made, No. 359 is found to be unused, but on going to 1958 a seedling from 'Kilworth' x 'Green Island' was described as "a super 'Green Island'" and so it becomes obvious that one is on the right track.

If there is a lesson to be learned from this it is surely to always use consecutive numbering, no matter how large the numbers become and never re-allocate numbers once they have been used.

### 3. PHOTOGRAPHS AND SLIDES

The photographs are all black and white, the most interesting being of daffodils. The earliest of these are predominantly of cultivars purchased by Lionel Richardson from R. O. Backhouse, P. D. Williams, Brodie and others, as the basis for his breeding stock during the 1920's and early 1930's. Among these are to be found such famous names as 'Hades', 'Red Sun', 'Penquite', 'Porthilly' and 'Forfar'. The photographs also feature some of the earliest of Richardson's cultivars such as 'Alroi' (1926), 'Master Robert' (1927) and 'Cashel' (1928) and continue through to the cultivars of the 1950's — 'Rose Royale' (1952), 'Perseus' (1953) and 'Flamboyant' (1956).

It was during the 1950's that the colour slides of daffodils were taken and these number 250, about one-third being of cultivars and the remainder of seedlings which apparently were never named. While most of the slides are of excellent quality and provide a useful record of the appearance of each flower, it is unfortunate that they did not cover a wider time span or relate more to the cultivars than the seedlings. It is only now that those of us concerned with the conservation of garden plants are coming to realise the value of photography in identification and perhaps it is time that conservation organisations gave advice to those involved in plant photography on a standardised system which would not only ensure that the characteristics of shape were captured, but also comparable details of colour and relative flower size.

### 4. LETTERS

Two files of letters are included among the records, these being to and from Guy Wilson between 1941 and 1961 and to and from The Brodie between 1928 and 1942 and thereafter his relatives until 1957. Much of the material is concerned with business transactions, but some letters did give an interesting insight of the breeders themselves and one useful piece of information was a record of the daffodil stock at "The Knockan" in 1961.

### 5. SALES BOOKS

These provide intermittent and probably incomplete records of the Richardsons business transactions between 1931 and 1977. The records are thought to be incomplete in view of the relatively low value of sales recorded in them, for example, only £7,808 in 1968 which was the best year (the catalogue value of the stock in that year was approximately £33,000). Based on the known stock of bulbs at "Prospect House", the average price per bulb and the many references in the correspondence to not having enough bulbs to meet orders it can only be assumed that the annual sales figures shown elsewhere in this paper are low.

### 6. CATALOGUES

These number 45 and cover most of the half century during which Richardson catalogues were issued from the first list in 1923 to the final booklet in 1973.

#### The Records and the Waterford Daffodils

The hybridisation work carried out by Lionel Richardson at Waterford was responsible for the development of certain types of daffodils, from the often poorly coloured and flimsily formed flowers of the early 20th century, to new levels of perfection. Among these the pinks, white and red, and doubles readily spring to mind. As mentioned earlier the appearance of certain cultivars and the making of particular crosses have come to be looked upon as milestones in the history of daffodil breeding. The appearance of 'Falaise' which gave rise, either directly or indirectly, to almost all modern double

daffodils was one such notable event, others being the raising of 'Salmon Trout', 'Kilworth' and 'Arbar' and the crossing together of this last pair. Much has been written in the past about these cultivars and the part they have played in subsequent developments. Invariably the comments made by authors, other than Richardson himself, have contained errors, probably because they were based on hearsay. The acquisition of this new information now allows the record to be corrected. In at least two articles, for example, it is stated that the seedpod found on a plant of 'Mary Copeland', which subsequently gave rise to 'Falaise', was discovered during World War II<sup>4</sup> and only Richardson himself has indicated the correct date in print as being 1929<sup>5</sup>. 'Falaise' in fact first appeared under this name in the record book for 1944 when the stock consisted of 105 bulbs of various sizes. This seedling had first been recorded in 1935 as No. 427 when it was described briefly as "best double, very late", the stock at that time consisting of 1 double nosed bulb and 1 offset. The Cross Book reference is also given as No. 1119 and if this entry is consulted it will be seen that the cross was 'Mary Copeland' (selfed) and produced 1 pod containing 8 seeds which were sown on 11th July, 1929, giving rise to 6 seedlings.

'Rose of Tralee' first appeared in the Stock Book for 1935 and was named as such in the index of the 1936 Book. It arose from Cross No. 1072, also made in 1929, which gave rise to 124 seeds (13 pods), sown on 29th June, 1929, and ultimately produced 107 seedlings.

'Kilworth' was first named in the Stock Book for 1939, having been recorded in 1935 as Seedling 472. No comment was made when it first flowered but in the following year it was described as "a good red and white incomparabilis". It arose from Cross 1374 made in 1931 between 'White Sentinel' and 'Hades', which gave rise to 74 seeds and when sown on 16th July, 1931, fifty three seedlings. The partner which was to make 'Kilworth' famous, namely 'Arbar', was later in coming. It was first named in the Stock Book of 1948, being first noted as Seedling 466 in 1943. It was from Cross No. 2064 ('Monaco' x 'Forfar') made in 1939. No comment was made on this seedling until 1945 when it was described as being very good in that year and a "better 'Monaco'." The pairing of these two cultivars proved to be one of the most productive daffodil crosses of all time, which has been written about extensively and has even merited an article devoted solely to it.<sup>6</sup> These accounts seem to carry one recurrent error, that the cross was carried out on five occasions between 1949 and 1956, producing 2,400 seeds. An earlier cross was made, however, in 1948 (No. 2763) but has apparently been overlooked by earlier writers because the pollen parent 'Arbar' was shown only as Seedling No. 466. Details of this and subsequent crosses are:

Year	Cross Number	No. of Seeds	No. of Seedlings
1948	2,763	173	132
1949	2,861	329	231
1950	2,963	1,069	540
1952	3,037	357	—
1954	3,184	432	—
1956	3,345	210	—

Seedling numbers for the 1952 to 1956 crosses were not recorded. Total number of seeds sown was 2,569.

Lionel Richardson raised several cyclamineus hybrids, such as 'Joybell' and 'Titania' about which there is little doubt concerning their status as true cyclamineus hybrids, in the accepted, botanical sense.<sup>7</sup> Others, however, such

as the interesting 'Kelpie' are much more reluctant to demonstrate any ancestral links with *Narcissus cyclamineus*, although all exhibit some degree of reflexing of the perianth segments. The links which 'Joybell' and 'Titania' have with *N. cyclamineus* is through the hybrids 'Jenny' and 'Dove Wings', raised from 'Mitylene' crossed with the species itself. The pink centred 'Kelpie' may well be a hybrid of garden origin which shows some tendency towards *N. cyclamineus* characteristics, however it is hard to believe that it is a "cyclamineus daffodil of garden origin" or that the "characteristics of *N. cyclamineus* predominate" in its flowers, and the same can be said for many of the similar flowers which arose before it and since. It is probably more correct, botanically speaking, to say that the origins of 'Kelpie' and many similar cultivars are to be found in the reflexing types of *N. poeticus*, as all the available evidence points to this. The parentage of 'Kelpie' is given as 'Cymbeline' x 'Debutante' both of which are large-cupped white and pink daffodils. Is there any reason to suspect a cyclamineus ancestry in either of these cultivars, and if not, where did the reflexing of the perianth come from? Both 'Cymbeline' and 'Debutante' have the same parentage of 'Wild Rose' x 'Rose Caprice' and their ancestries give no hint of a cyclamineus connection. There is, however, a strong link with *N. poeticus* and particularly with the form of var. *exertus* known as 'Ornatus' which is to be found in the ancestry of 'Wild Rose' through the influence of 'Mitylene' and possibly 'Blizzard', and in 'Rose Caprice' through 'White Sentinel'. Although the background of these cultivars is not fully given in the Daffodil Data Bank, it is now known from correspondence between Engleheart and Brodie and more recently discovered letters from Engleheart to F. W. Burbidge in Dublin that these daffodils did contain *N. poeticus* *Ornatus*.<sup>8</sup> Indeed in that part of the ancestry of 'Mitylene' and 'White Sentinel' shown in the Data Bank, the seed parent 'Beacon' itself had as its own seed parent another poeticus with recurving perianth segments — *N. poeticus* var. *recurvus*. It therefore seems likely that many of the "cyclamineus-type" daffodils have much closer links with *N. poeticus* and it is from this source that the recurved perianth segments came. Recently discovered material has also indicated the very wide use of *N. triandrus* in daffodil breeding in Victorian times, not least by Engleheart himself and it is highly likely that the recurved perianth characteristic came in some part from this source.<sup>9</sup>

During his lifetime Lionel Richardson produced double daffodils in almost every conceivable colour combination. One combination, however, appeared to elude him, namely white and pink, only to be introduced after his death by his wife.

Lionel Richardson obviously was attempting to raise a pink double when he crossed a double seedling with 'Salmon Trout' in 1948 (Cross No. 2836). The double seedling had been raised from the earliest use of 'Falaise' which I have been able to trace, as Seedling 427 x 'Limerick' this cross being made in 1944 and numbered 2491. The cross between this Seedling and 'Salmon Trout' produced only 2 seeds and 1 seedling which apparently did not survive as I have been unable to trace it in any of the subsequent record books. Several other crosses were made by Lionel Richardson which did result in white and pink doubles as follows:

1956 Seedling 604 ('Falaise' x 'Broughshane') x 'Debutante'	. . . . .	Cross 3404
1959 'Falaise' x 'Debutante'	. . . . .	Cross 3509
'Falaise' x 'Rose Caprice'	. . . . .	Cross 3510
1960 'Falaise' x 'Imogen'	. . . . .	Cross 3624

A plant from the 1956 cross flowered in 1962 when it was described as a "white and apricot double with a very full flower and 'Swansdown' centre".<sup>10</sup> Although never named it was almost certainly the first double flower with a "pink" centre to be bred in the British Isles and Ireland, and was thought highly enough of to be used in Mrs. Richardson's breeding programme which gave rise to a clearer pink colouration in the early 1970's through 'Marietta' x 'Irani' (Cross No. 3987).

### The Letters

The most touching letters are those written during 1960 and 1961 at a time when Wilson's health was deteriorating rapidly. Richardson first heard of Wilson's decision to dispose of his daffodil collection from W. J. Dunlop in late March 1961. He subsequently wrote to Wilson saying "I am terribly sorry to hear of this; are you wise to part with the whole thing? If you do not keep some of your good things to amuse yourself with you will regret it later. If I were a younger man I would take on some of your best things, but I am far too old now."<sup>11</sup> John Shaw, Wilson's foreman had earlier written to Richardson "It is very sad for Mr. Wilson to have to give up his daffodils . . . I myself feel very sorry about it as I will be with Mr. Wilson 40 years in May this year and had a good interest in his flowers . . ."<sup>12</sup> Richardson privately sympathised with Shaw saying "I cannot say how sorry I am for you in this unfortunate position."<sup>13</sup>

During late March and early April 1961 Richardson assisted with the compilation of Wilson's stock list, prepared in connection with the sale of the business and was dismayed by the large numbers of bulbs which had been allowed to build up. He wrote to Shaw "I was very much shocked by some of your stocks of the more expensive varieties and cannot think what is going to happen now — they will only fetch a matter of shillings if they are forced onto the market . . . I cannot understand why Mr. Wilson let these stocks get so large — 170 one year and 78 two years plants of 'Empress of Ireland' at £10 each . . . and 'Glendermott' equally as bad."<sup>13</sup> Richardson's forecast proved to be very near the mark for although the value of his bulb stocks (catalogued cultivars only) was approximately £32,000 their sale made considerably less.<sup>14</sup>

### Conclusion

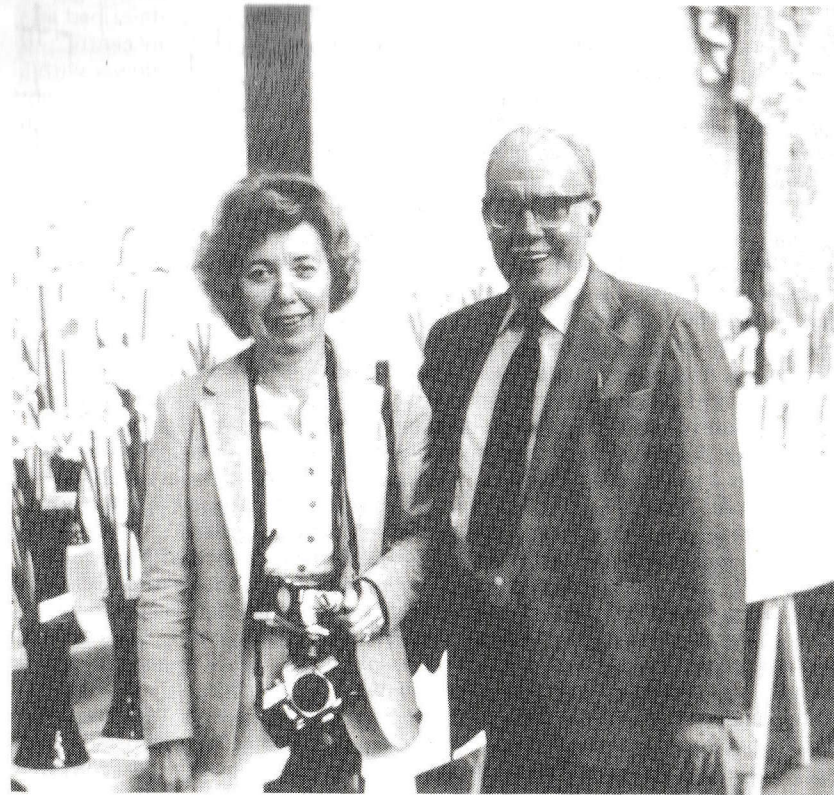
Lionel Richardson's connections with daffodils spanned over half a century, from 1910 to 1961, during which time the quality of white and red and yellow and red flowers was improved to a remarkable degree. The modern pinks and doubles had almost been created from scratch and other kinds such as the pink cyclamineus-type daffodil had made its first appearance.

Perhaps Guy Wilson summed up these developments perfectly in 1941 when he wrote "Waterford Daffodils will be as famous as Waterford Glass."<sup>15</sup> How true this proved to be.

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The Richardson Records are now in the Library, New University of Ulster, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, N. Ireland.



Mary Lou Gripshover and Bob Sterling at Ballymena Show

## Revised Classification of Daffodils 1977

1. The classification of a daffodil cultivar shall be based on the description and measurements submitted by the person registering the variety, or shall be the classification submitted by such person.
2. Colours applicable to the description of daffodil cultivars are abbreviated as follows:  
W—white or whitish; G—green; Y—yellow; P—pink; O—orange; R—red.
3. For purposes of description, the daffodil flower shall be divided into perianth and corona.
4. The perianth shall be described by the letter or letters of the colour code most appropriate.
5. The corona shall be divided into three zones: an eye-zone, a mid-zone, and the edge or rim. Suitable coded colour descriptions shall describe these three zones, beginning with the eye-zone and extending to the rim.
6. The letter or letters of the colour code most accurately describing the perianth shall follow the division designation.
7. The letters of the colour code most accurately describing the zones of the corona shall then follow, from the eye-zone to the rim separated from the perianth letters by a hyphen. In Division 4, the letters of the colour code most accurately describing the admixture of petals and petaloids replacing the corona shall follow in proper order, using 3, 2, or 1 colour codes as appropriate.
8. If the corona is substantially of a single colour, a single letter of the colour code shall describe it.

Using these basic requirements, daffodils may be classified as follows:

### **DIVISION 1: TRUMPET DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN**

Distinguishing characters: One flower to a stem; trumpet or corona as long or longer than the perianth segments.

### **DIVISION 2: LONG-CUPPED DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN**

Distinguishing characters: One flower to a stem; cup or corona more than one-third, but less than equal to the length of the perianth segments.

### **DIVISION 3: SHORT-CUPPED DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN**

Distinguishing characters: One flower to a stem; cup or corona not more than one-third the length of the perianth segments.

### **DIVISION 4: DOUBLE DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN**

Distinguishing characters: Double flowers.

### **DIVISION 5: TRIANDRUS DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN**

Distinguishing characters: Characteristics of *Narcissus triandrus* predominant.

### **DIVISION 6: CYCLAMINEUS DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN**

Distinguishing characters: Characteristics of *Narcissus cyclamineus* predominant.

### **DIVISION 7: JONQUILLA DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN**

Distinguishing characters: Characteristics of the *Narcissus jonquilla* group predominant.

### **DIVISION 8: TAZETTA DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN**

Distinguishing characters: Characteristics of the *Narcissus tazetta* group predominant.

### **DIVISION 9: POETICUS DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN**

Distinguishing characters: Characteristics of the *Narcissus poeticus* group predominant.

### **DIVISION 10: SPECIES AND WILD FORMS AND WILD HYBRIDS**

All species and wild or reputedly wild forms and hybrids. Double forms of these varieties are included.

### **DIVISION 11: SPLIT-CORONA DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN**

Distinguishing characters: Corona split for at least one-third of its length.

### **DIVISION 12: MISCELLANEOUS DAFFODILS**

All daffodils not falling into any one of the foregoing Divisions.