

Newsletter

of the
**Northern Ireland
Daffodil Group**



Half-yearly publication of the
Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

**JUNE 1980
ISSUE**



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

June 1980

Vol.1. No. 7.

OFFICERS OF THE GROUP

Chairman	B.S. Duncan, Dergmoney, Omagh	Te1. 2931
Secretary	R. Sterling, 60 Churchill Park, Bangor	Te1. 65290
Treasurer	A.J. Carlisle, 124 Warren Road, Donaghadee	Te1. 882527

COMMITTEE

B.S. Duncan	R. Sterling	A.J. Carlisle
S. Bankhead	S. McCabe	J. Kennedy
	G. Andrews	

W.J. Toal	Liaison to Daffodil Growers
C. Cochrane	Liaison to Ministry of Agriculture

MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

We have an ever increasing number of members who reside outside Northern Ireland and cannot fully enjoy the various activities and comradeship of the N I D G. Our twice yearly Newsletter is often our only contact with such members and it is also our "Shop Window" to attract new members both at home and overseas. Accordingly we decided to try to up-grade the Newsletter both in presentation and content. The result is seen in our new glossy cover and printed interior which I hope will be sufficiently attractive to encourage our members, wherever they reside, to invite their daffodil friends to join our Group.

Due to serious illness Hon Secretary Bob Sterling missed the flowering season and we all missed Bob and Georgie with their flowers and good humour around the local shows. Happily he is now regaining strength following major surgery and taking sufficient interest to shake his fellow committee members out of the lethargy which sometimes follows the daffodil season.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden deaths of Mr Wally Bowers and Mr George Yarrall of New Zealand whose company we enjoyed so much last year when they and their wives joined the World Daffodil Tour. It was also with shock and sorrow that we heard of the passing of Mr Cyril Coleman, a name respected and revered by all enthusiasts as a true gentleman and as the raiser of that great cyclamineus trio 'Charity May', 'Dove Wings' and 'Jenny'. At 88 years of age he, with his wife's assistance, staged a most attractive and comprehensive exhibit of cyclamineus and older, almost forgotten hybrids at the London Show in April this year. A gentle and charming character - he befriended all who loved daffodils and he will be sadly missed at the London Shows by those of us who make the annual pilgrimage.

I will always have pleasant memories of the 1980 flowering season. Firstly there was a wonderful trip to America taking in visits with the Ticknors in North Carolina, the Hardisons and Gripshovers in Nashville in addition to a most enjoyable A D S Convention in Memphis. Others from Northern Ireland who

enjoyed the flowers and the lavish hospitality of our American friends were Sir Frank and Lady Harrison, Kate Reade and Sandy McCabe. On return from America our own season was dry underfoot from beginning to end - such a contrast with last year's World Tour weather. However, this year's overseas visitors Bill and Rosemary Roese, Chuck and Amy Anthony, Alf and June Chappell, and Wim Lemmers will be able to vouch that it doesn't always rain in Ireland.

Please let us have your constructive criticisms of this issue together with suggestions and contributions for future issues and so help us provide a really worthwhile Newsletter.

BRIAN DUNCAN



PHIL PHILLIPS (New Zealand)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Woodlands Hotel, Lisburn on Sunday 20 January, 1980 at 3 p.m. with a large number of members present.

The Chairman welcomed the members and the meeting was conducted as per the Agenda.

The Secretary's report covered the Convention - the sharp increase in membership - the local show reports and the proposed coloured cover for the Newsletter.

Dates for the Spring Shows were confirmed, with the 'Championship of Ireland' show to be hosted by the Bangor Horticultural Society and the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group's late show to be staged at "Carncairn Daffodils" Broughshane by courtesy of Major and Mrs. R.H. Reade.

The Secretary informed the members that the committee had agreed to assist in the building of a daffodil feature at Annesley Gardens in Castlewellan Forest Park by supplying surplus bulbs from the Guy Wilson Memorial Park at the University in Coleraine and concluded his report by thanking everyone for their assistance during the year.

The Treasurer's report was detailed to cover the income and expenditure during the year and that he was able to show a surplus was indeed most satisfying bearing in mind that it had been a very expensive year covering the Convention - Publications - Postage and rentals for meetings etc.

The members approved the reports in the usual way with Sir Frank Harrison adding a vote of thanks on behalf of the members for the efforts of the Secretary and Treasurer during the year.

The Chairman in his address to the members referred to the deaths of Mrs. Flo. Bloomer and Mrs. J. Bankhead during the year - a short silence was observed in respect to the two ladies.

Mr. Duncan spoke of the many improvements that his committee hoped to finalise during 1980 and just to mention that it was possible that with the approval of the members the Group would come under a Charitable tag in the near future. He also mentioned that for the next issue of the Newsletter we would be the first daffodil Group/Society to produce a Newsletter enclosed in a coloured cover.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their time, interest and attendance to the activities during the past year and concluded his address by declaring all offices vacant.

The election of Officers and Committee presented no problems - Major Reade and Mr. J. Bownass retiring, having served for four consecutive years. Mr. J. Kennedy and Mr. G. Andrews being elected to fill the vacancies.

The Secretary (Mr. R. Sterling), and the Treasurer (Mr. A.J. Carlisle), gave notice that they would retire from office at the Annual General Meeting 1981.

A cup of tea followed by a wonderful slide show of daffodils - daffodil people and the Convention with recorded comments by George Tarry brought the programme to an end except of course for extra hour that it takes to say your farewell's to your fellow enthusiasts!!

Bob Sterling

April 1980

SECRETARY'S NOTICEBOARD

The Templepatrick Horticultural Society will be holding its 50th Annual Show on Saturday, 6th September, 1980.

To celebrate the occasion they have decided to change the format of the Show this year and make it an all day Show.

Winners in the open classes, apart from points awarded towards their handsome collection of Cups, will receive attractive money prizes.

There will be many interesting attractions and I sincerely hope that all members of the N.I.D.Group will support this very interesting and worthwhile effort by the Templepatrick Horticultural Society.

Our very best wishes to the Bankhead family in their new surroundings at Ballymena. I do envy them all that lovely ground to plant and enjoy daffodils - not forgetting the many other plants that they grow so well.

My personal thanks for the flood of good wishes - cards and gifts from daffodil friends throughout the world during my recent illness. I was indeed flattered that so many people took the time to write - visit and phone. Thank you once again.

June 1980.

B.S.

THE SAGA OF AN OLD DAFFODIL GROWER

When telling my tale of Bob Sterling

It is not my intention to start abuse hurling,

I mean no offence to the Old Gentleman

So I'll tell his tale as best I can.

Now Bob has spoken oft and long

Of his love for daffs, which is so strong,

Of the days of his youth when his love was new,

And the tales that he told me, which he said were true.

His earliest recollection which he likes to recall,

Is of a visit he made to one John Kendall,

The year as best he remembers the date,

Was eighteen hundred and eighty-eight.

Our Bob said to John, without undue fuss
 "Why don't you cross "Emperor" with "Maximus""
 Said Mr. Kendall to our Bob in reply,
 "Not a bad idea lad, I'll give it a try".

So then and there before Bob's eyes
 John made the cross as he thought "How wise
 Bob seems so bright, such a cool clear mind,
 I'm sure from this cross a good flower we'll find".

The seeds were shown, the seedlings grew,
 They both sat and waited for something new,
 But then poor John just upped and died
 And Bob, so upset, his grief could not hide.

The very next spring the seedlings did flower,
 Our Bob selected one, tall as a tower,
 He then heard John's voice returned from the dead,
 "I think" said John 'We'll name it "King Alfred"".

This story is true, as you now know,
 Because Bob was there and he said it was so.

Twenty years later, or round about there,
 Bob visited Bath to see Walter T. Ware,
 Who took Bob home, as he thought was right,
 Bob promptly repaid him by chatting all night.

Then sharp at nine the very next morning,
 They went outside, though both were yawning
 Mr. Ware showed our Bob the ones he thought best,
 Then after that, Bob looked at the rest.

Now the rest consisted of things rejected,
 But Bob looked them over and with joy detected
 A yellow and red, its stem straight as a rule,
 Then said to its raiser "That one could be useful".

Mr. Ware in reply said "I'll give it a trial",
 Bob said "If I'm right it will cause you to smile,
 For cash it will make you, your assets will boom",
 "If you're right" said his host "I'll name it Fortune".

This story is true, as you now know,
 Because Bob was there and he said it was so.

His story now jumps to '32
 The spring was early, the skies clear blue,
 He paid a visit to Waterford
 Where he dabbed with pollen, and never was bored.

Now in '38, or round about there,
 Bob got a letter, postmarked, Waterford, Eire,
 "Dear Bob" it commenced "Remember your crosses,
 We've got a winner, well that what the Boss says".

The letter went on "If you can now recall
 You crossed some blooms, by the garden wall
 One cross that you made was Royalist by Crocus,
 Over a seedling of which we are making much fuss".

Now Bob says he was not surprised by this,
 He thought at the time that he could not miss,
 Soon he replied, and a postage stamp bought,
 Suggesting to Lionel the name "Kingscourt".

This story is true, as you now know,
 Because Bob was there and he said it was so.

We now move on to '41,
 The year Bob visited Guy Wilson,
 Bob wanted to go in April that year
 But was somewhat delayed by a certain Hitler.

Bob eventually arrived in late July,
 The sun was high and the soil was dry,
 Guy was busily sowing seed
 And of Bob's help he was in need.

Box after box Bob filled with soil,
 Hour after hour they both did toil,
 The seed was sown, all neatly spaced,
 They both worked hard, at a furious pace.

That evening over a quiet drink,
 Guy said to Bob "Now let us think
 Have I sown enough seed for this year?"
 Bob said I'll think, when I've finished my beer".

Guy then looked over the seed unsown,
 "There's far too much" he said with a groan,
 "I'll leave it to you, Bob, to decide which is best,
 Keep 500, then throw out the rest".

Bob looked at the seed, one cross at a time,
 Throwing most packets away, but retaining nine,
 These seeds he sowed out by the old stable,
 Then nipped inside for a glass of Black Label.

Bob next visit Guy in '47,
 April it was, and Bob had found heaven,
 Guy said "Do you remember when you were younger,
 In '41 when you sowed Guardian X Kanchenjunga".

"Well come with me to my seedling plot,
 And see if you are able to spot
 The same flower as me, that I think is the best
 Come on Bob, this will be your final test".

They both went down to the seedling bed,
 Guy walked behind, as Bob quickly led,
 "It's there" cried Bob "it stands out a mile",
 Whilst Guy looked on with an impish smile.

"What shall we name it" said Guy to Bob,
 "Shall we name it after an Inn or a Pub?"
 "How about" said our Bob "Best in the Land?"
 Guy quietly replied "It shall be Empress of Ireland".

This story is true, as you now know,
 Because Bob was there and he said it was so.

RENAISSANCE OF THE DAFFODIL IN IRELAND

As far back as plant records exist Daffodils were well known in Ireland. They were to be found growing in the hedgerows, skirting the edges of woodland paths, in the orchards and amid the natural surroundings of trees and shrubs in many old Irish gardens. Here they flourished and bloomed profusely but they were only regarded as common wild flowers, or, as they were sometimes called the Wayside Flower of the Poets.

It was not until the latter part of the 19th Century that any attention was paid to their development as garden plants. In "The Narcissus, its History and Cultivation" which Mr. F.W. Burbidge wrote with Mr. J.C. Baker of Kew in 1875, the only mention of Narcissi in Ireland is a coloured plate of hybrid Narcissi from the then Royal Botanic Gardens, Dublin.

In 1879 Burbidge was appointed Curator of the Trinity College Gardens, Dublin and from then onwards frequent articles appeared from his pen in the Gardeners' Chronicle and the Garden and these created a great upsurge of interest in the development of the daffodil in Ireland.

In these early days the emphasis was on the production of blooms for the ever increasing cut flower trade and in 1878 Mr. William Baylor Hartland, an ardent daffodil lover, commenced business as a nurseryman at Ard Cairn, Ballintemple, Co. Cork. He was an enthusiastic grower who was continually on the search for varieties that were either unknown or quite forgotten and he seems to have had an uncontrollable desire to make the most of his finds and to classify and catalogue any new species or variety to which he could attach a name. Among the earliest introductions which he named were 'Little Nell', 'White Minor' and 'Colleen Bawn'.

Hartland was, undoubtedly, the pioneer of Daffodil growing in Ireland, writing articles in the Press and circulating leaflets pointing out how much benefit might accrue to Ireland from an extension of her minor agricultural industries, he himself having set the example by starting a very successful bulb farm, an example that was soon followed by others like Miss Fanny Currey of Lismore, Sir Josslyn Gore-Booth of Lissadell, Sligo, and Messrs. Hogg and Robertson of Rush, Co. Dublin.

Towards the end of the century new varieties were arriving with such frequency that in 1884 at the instigation of Burbidge, J.C. Baker and Peter Barr the Royal Horticultural Society decided to hold a Daffodil Conference in London to consider the classification which had been made for Daffodils and a resolution was passed: "That a Committee be formed to revise the Latin names which had tentatively given to new seedling daffodils and that popular names be substituted.

Following this Conference Peter Barr published a brochure entitled 'Ye Narcissus or Daffodil Flowre, and hys roots, with hys History and culture', Burbidge contributing a series of pen and ink sketches to illustrate the various sections. Not to be outdone Hartland immediately published his 'Little Booke of Daffodils' in which he listed almost 100 varieties.

It was not until 1885 that Daffodils made their debut as Show Flowers and this was at the Spring Show of the Royal Horticultural Society held in Dublin where an exhibit of 24 varieties secured a premier award for Mr. John T. Poe, Riverstown, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

Four years later the first Daffodil Show was held in Cork and as reported in the local newspaper "The rare Queen Ann's daffodil (*Capex plenus*) was represented by between 600 - 700 exquisitely beautiful blooms. Such a quantity of this beautiful variety has probably never before been seen on any one stand even at the great London Show".

These were from Hartland and an extract from the "Queen" May 1895 describes how during a visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales (later King Edward and Queen Alexandra) to the south of Ireland the Royal Saloon was decorated by Mr. Hartland with white daffodils and mentions *N. cernuus* both single and double. The increasing amount of interest in the Daffodil created by the First Daffodil Conference in 1884 encouraged the Royal Horticultural Society to hold a Second Conference and Exhibition in their gardens at Chiswick, London in 1890. This was a very great success and among the awards were a Silver-Gilt Flora Medal to Mr. James Walker of Ham, London. This far-seeing Scot was an extensive grower and important buyer who, unlike his competitors, saw a future for the new hybrid daffodils, as market flowers.

Walker and Hartland had much in common and so convincing was Hartland in his opinion that Ireland was the best bulb growing area in the world that Walker decided that he would visit the Emerald Isle and explore the possibility of commencing business there.

Hartland, the warm hearted and excitable Irishman, and Walker became close friends and Walker visited Ireland where he found the soil and climate in certain districts eminently suitable for bulb growing but the attraction of being so close to the London market proved too great and he returned to continue his business at Ham.

Meantime, back in Ireland the drawback of distance from the main market centres did not deter the Irish growers from extending their business and building up stocks of their own seedlings and the best of the named varieties from other raisers. Hartland had extended his trial grounds into a bulb farm to meet the growing demand and such was his confidence that in one of his early catalogues he refers to his bulb farm in Cork as "Haarlem in South Cork" and that "He is beating the Dutch quite out". For nearly twenty years he says

"I have with much success been growing bulbs in South Cork" and very courageously concludes "Holland's monopoly is disappearing.

Hartland had an unshakeable belief that Ireland possessed the where with all to produce the finest daffodils in the world and he never missed the opportunity of pressing his claim on behalf of the Daffodil in Ireland and he never allowed others to forget what he was doing to popularise it.

Far removed from Cork with a much more uncongenial climate is the village of Broughshane, Co. Antrim, and it was here that in 1906, Guy L. Wilson commenced his career as a daffodil raiser and grower.

Hartland lived before my time but I enjoyed a friendship of many years with Guy and I think these two men must have had very much in common. Many, many years ago I remember Guy telling me that it was Hartland that fostered his first love for white daffodils, a love which lasted throughout his life. Then some five years later, through the help and encouragement of Miss Fanny Currey and Sir Fredrick Moore, Curator of the National Botanic Gardens, Mr. J. Lionel Richardson embarked on his bulb growing activities at Prospect House, Waterford.

Sir Fredrick, a genial giant of an Irishman who represented his country as a front-row forward on the Rugby field, shared Hartland's faith in the future of Irish daffodils and worked untiringly to popularise them. In 1911 he visited the established Bulb Farms during the flowering season and these are his observations gleaned from his notes which Lady Moore kindly allowed me to copy some years ago.

Ard Cairn. Ballintemple, Co. Cork. William Baylor Hartland.

The nursery is situated on high ground well above the river, and although enjoying full sun, the ground slopes towards the river to the north. The soil is a warm, sandy loam. The trial grounds are narrow beds in front of the residence, well sheltered and protected by high hedges. Here were large groups of such select varieties as Ambrosina, Roll Call, Phantasy, Balzac, Hebe, Homespun, Noble, Czarina, Venus, Diana, Liquid and Sweepstake. Groups of seedlings were flowering for the first time, several of them of a quality that must add to the laurels of the raiser. In a large field where the stocks are grown were large breadths of such kinds as Cervantes and Claddagh, two very early flowering sorts which were quite over before the end of March. There were also large stocks of the leading popular varieties, and a noble-flowered variety which bears the name of its raiser, Baylor Hartland.

Warren Gardens, Lismore, Miss Fanny Currey.

Situated on a plateau well above the river is the town and at the end of the main thoroughfare stands the church surrounded by trees. In the shade of these trees Miss Currey built a studio, and there painted many delightful pictures. Here also was her garden. My first visit was to the erstwhile

studio, cool and shaded, and here, instead of pictures, were ranged around walls vases of Jasper, Whitewell, Croesus, Sunrise, Duke of Leinster, Warrior, Sidar, Scarletta and Lord Muncaster, Lord Kitchener and many others, gaining strength for their long journey to the London Show. The garden walled in, well sheltered by trees and enjoying full sunshine, with a fine deep, open, loamy soil contained a large bed of King Alfred which never before have I seen anything to equal. Immediately in front of the door, but in full sun, some masses of Firebrand, Sirius, Flambeau, Torch and Lucifer were bright beyond description. Near by were patches of White Slave, White Queen, Lord Kitchener, Sidar, Mermaid, Mrs. Morland Crosfield, Goldfinch, Michael Great Warley, while many of the choicer sorts are cultivated in long narrow beds, protected by low hedges. Beyond the garden are two fields sloping towards the river, but well above it, and fully exposed to the ripening influence of sun and wind. The soil here is stiffer, and in it were growing large breadths of the older varieties, all in vigorous health. Here girls were busily cutting flowers for Miss Curry doing a considerable business in Daffodil blooms.

Hogg and Robertson's - Rush and Malahide, Co. Dublin.

The ground at Rush is flat, sandy plain, partly sheltered from the sea blasts by low sand hills. The bulb grounds, although somewhat scattered, cover a large area and here vast quantities of tulips are grown. At Malahide where Mr. James Robertson resides the soil is a good sandy loam, much heavier than the soil at Rush, and there is also much more shelter.

A large stock of the choice varieties of Narcissi is grown here, and there were several acres of the older standard varieties. A five acre field was one mass of colour from end to end. The white varieties of Ajax were especially good among them being Lady of the Snows, Countess Cadogan, Mrs. Betteridge, Countess of Mayo, Mrs. F.W. Moore and Peter Barr. Other good varieties of other sections which were much in evidence were White Queen, White Slave, Weardale Perfection, Bedouin, Florence Pearson, Great Warley, Lady Arnott, Lady Boscawen, Mrs. George F. Brook and Mona.

Lissadell. Sir Josslyn Gore Booth.

Lissadell lies at the northern side of Sligo Bay, which is divided into two by a neck of land terminated by Roche's Point. The northern portion is known as Drumcliffe Bay, and on the shore of this is Lissadell, facing due south and well sheltered by woods. The Bulb farm is divided into two sections, garden and field. The garden section is a large piece of ground enclosed by hedges with long bedseighty yards by three feet six inches, running due north and south and in this enclosure are cultivated the new and rarer varieties, also the seedlings, of which there were many thousands, the results of various crosses. Some of these crosses gave promise of startling results, notably.

Triandrus x King Alfred. Triandrus x Madam de Graaff from which cross there were pure white, sulphur, and bicolor seedlings. Again Minnie Hume and Triandrus albus produced some lovely white flowers, some plants with several flowers on each inflorescence. Madam de Graaff x Weardale Perfection was another cross which produced some startling results. There were thousands of seedlings of pure poeticus. A ten-acre field on higher ground, protected by trees formed part of the farm. The soil here is a stiff loam, but well drained. Many of the newer varieties, as well as quantities of the older sorts were represented here, including, Incognita, King Alfred, Oriflamme, Mrs. Percy Foster, Orange King, Joseph Sangster, Queen May and Mrs. R. Sydenham, and most of the good poeticus. Lower down a field of four acres contained large quantities of Emperor, Empress, Sir Watkin Barri conspicuus, Golden Spur and others. During my visit the flowers were being cut and packed for the market for the cut flower trade which here, as at the Warren Gardens, is quite extensive. An interesting feature at Lissadell is a series of experiments carried on to ascertain which varieties are most suitable for cultivation in grass, or for pot work, or for forcing. The results are tabulated, and information is given to customers who make enquiries and also in the catalogue.

W.J. TOAL



WORLD DAFFODIL TOUR, NEW UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER, COLERAINE
(Left to Right) - PHIL PHILLIPS, DAVID JACKSON, W. O. TICKNOR,
THE LATE DUKE OF ABERCORN, _____? AND PROF. P. NEWBOULD

WARNING:**Daffodil Bulb Cleaning Can Damage Your Health**

Recent tests carried out by two highly trained fools at the Rathowen Laboratories have shown that the cleaning of Daffodil Bulbs is not without serious risk to health - both physical and mental. Because of their IQ rate the two subjects were in no risk on the latter count.

Health Hazards can be divided into two categories

- (a) Environmental
- (b) Parasitological

The most serious of the environmental problems to be encountered was Narcissicosis Bustinus, known in the trade as Daffodil Pluckers Lung. Symptoms noted were streaming eyes, running noses, belching and complaints from the laundresses about dirty handkerchiefs.

A combination of lack of chairs and cold benches led, in certain cases, to an unmentionable debilitating illness which caused piles of trouble!

In the parasitological category the technician must face two notable adversaries (a) the daffodil spider mite (b) the lesser bearded daffodil spider mite. The only difference in them being their habitats which cannot be gone into here.

However the most insidious of all the parasites encountered is the CAPITALINUS PIGUS who is supposed to pay the wages. There is little that can be done about this pest since he still hasn't paid us. A complaint to our chief security officer met with no response other than to seek legal advice and take civil proceedings.

All, however, is not lost. Several treatments are now available - the most notable of which is the drug T.A.Y. This, to be effective, must be taken in two doses - 11 o'clock T.A.Y. and 4 o'clock T.A.Y. The drug is manufactured in a T.A.Y. Pot and when refined becomes Tea. T.A.Y. must always be administered with scones, pancakes shortbread etc., under the watchful eye of Matron Campbell. The treatment was found to cure all known ills but in the amounts with which it had to be administered to one of the subjects, made it a very expensive treatment. To justify the cost one would have needed to be working with some exclusive variety like Pink Pageant or Pink Paradise but the afore-mentioned Capitalinus Pigus insisted on keeping these under strict security and no-one was allowed to see them - let alone touch them.

On the mental side the disc jockeys of R.T.E. 2 have a lot to answer for though cricket commentaries were also administered in large quantities.

We would like to thank:

- Paddy: for entertaining stories (its amazing what can be done with a Hovis).
- Mr. & Mrs. Campbell - one for providing T.A.Y. and the other for leaving us the soap).
- Mr. Duncan - for not smoking his cigar ALL the time.
- Desmond - for not bothering us.
- Gary - the trainee - who spent many a penny in Rossnowlagh.
- The two subjects: A. Nutt and P.E.A. Nutt.

E.J. Beattie, M.A. C.D.M. L.I.A.R.

P.B. Duncan, B.Sc. Ph.D. B.U.M.

THE LATEST AND THE BEST**ALL-YELLOW DIVISION 2 CULTIVARS**

For very many years the 2 Y-Y section cultivars lacked that certain quality that the best all yellow trumpets possessed, but over the past few years great strides have been made which has seen the closing of that gap, and although there may not be as many high-class all-yellow Division 2 flowers as there are in the trumpet class there is little if anything to choose between the quality of the best examples of the two sub-divisions.

The first flower to narrow the distance between the two groups was 'Galway', raised and introduced by Lionel Richardson in 1943 at £7.7s. Raised from the same batch of seed that had produced 'Kingscourt' this son of 'Royalist' x 'Crocus' is a tall strong stemmed cultivar, rich golden yellow in colour. It is a very strong grower with wonderful foliage, but has with me always produced rather rough flowers, and I have the feeling that better quality flowers may have been produced if the bulbs had been planted in a less rich soil. It has been described as the "best yellow trumpet for garden decoration". Whilst to the purist it is not technically a true trumpet the description is very apt. The next major step forward was in 1952 when Lionel Richardson introduced the Michael Williams raised 'St. Keverne' at £8. In my garden this cultivar always had the beating of 'Galway' on quality and the number of exhibition worthy blooms that it produced. Not quite as rich in colour as 'Galway' it nonetheless has won three R.H.S. First Class Certificates namely for Exhibition, Garden Display and Potting: additionally it won the best bloom award at the R.H.S. Early Competition in 1972. It is a good, reliable cultivar whose one drawback is that with today's fashion for rounded perianths it does not possess as circular a perianth as one might wish. The third cultivar originated around this period is 'Ormeau' which was raised by W.J. Dunlop from a 'Pilgrimage' x 'Cromarty' cross and registered in 1949. Although, perhaps, not as well known as the other two mentioned, 'Ormeau' is for me the best of the trio. With the colour description "deep golden yellow", 'Ormeau' could just as easily have been registered as a Division I cultivar as Division 2, for in the majority of seasons as many blooms measure trumpet length as those that do not. I feel that 'Ormeau' would have gained better recognition than it has, had it been raised by a hybridist who was more in the buying public's eye, or if it had received greater publicity at the time of its introduction. It is a cultivar that has always grown well with me, and it is now the only one of the three that I grow.

1964 saw the arrival of 'Camelot'. Raised from 'Kingscourt' x 'Ceylon' by Lionel Richardson this cultivar on first viewing looked as though, for exhibition purposes, it would lead the field, but experience in growing showed that despite its size and attractive, very rounded, perianth, in the main its blooms grew too strongly and were rather coarse. Not very many blooms of it are seen on the show bench today, and its future value seems to lie more in its ability as a parent, where many of its off-spring show the greatest promise. In 1964 'Golden Aura' arrived with rather a bang, when winning the best bloom award at the R.H.S. Early Competition. This is another richly coloured flower, extremely circular in form, but rather small in size. Whilst in no way do I fall into those who think size is all important, I nonetheless believe that 'Golden Aura' is almost always considerably lacking in size when placed up along side the majority of other top class exhibition cultivars in this section. Although registered in 1965, 'Strines' does not appear to have entered the catalogues until 1971. This F.E. Board origination is without doubt one of the very best daffodils he raised during his relatively short hybridising career. This is a rich yellow cultivar which has first class form and size and always gives a high number of exhibition quality blooms.

It has an excellent record of show successes and only last year was awarded, by the R.H.S., a First Class Certificate for Exhibition. One of the very best 'Value for money' cultivars at present available.

Of the newer cultivars probably the two Tom Bloomer seedlings, both raised from 'Arctic Gold' x 'Camelot', namely 'Golden Jewel' and 'Golden Joy' lead the field by a considerable margin. Both are extremely refined flowers with 'Golden Jewel' having the slightly richer colouring whilst 'Golden Joy' is slightly larger and has a rounder, and to me, more attractive form. Whenever Bob Sterling and I meet we argue as to which is the better, he favours 'Golden Jewel' whilst I have always considered its sister (or should it be brother) seedling to be the best in this sub-division.

Three cultivars that I have not grown, but which perhaps should be commented on are 'Bryanston', 'Celtic Gold' and 'Torch Bearer'. 'Bryanston' gained the best bloom award at the R.H.S. Early Competition in 1977 to be followed in 1978 by an Award of Merit. I have, for the past three years closely looked at the various blooms staged of this particular cultivar and have, without too much difficulty, avoided the temptation to purchase. It may be the result of the abnormally bad weather conditions that we experienced in 1978 and 1979, but the blooms have seemed to lack that something that is required to make it a worthwhile purchase for its exhibition potential. 'Celtic Gold' I confess to having seen only twice. On both occasions it was most impressive. It was raised by Mrs. Richardson, and with her death, seems to have disappeared into private collectors hands. It is to be hoped that it will be available later via a

catalogue, and if that should happen then most certainly it is one that should be closely watched as to any potential effect it may have on the exhibition scene. The last flower to comment on is the Ballydorn raised 'Torch Bearer'. I have seen this cultivar only when staged for competition by its raiser and from what I have seen, although it lacks a little in richness of colour and does not possess a circular form, it is well worth its catalogue price to those who fancy investing in a cultivar which has not received too much publicity.

If I were condemned to growing only one cultivar from this sub-division there would be no hesitation in selecting 'Golden Joy' as the one to retain. If I were allowed more, the order for retention then must be 'Strines', 'Golden Joy' and 'Ormeau', though I would loath to give up anyone of them at present.

March 1980

E. JARMAN

AUTUMN WEEK-END

A few members and their families will once again spend a weekend in late October at Portballintrae. Any member interested in joining the party please contact me for date and tariffs.

Should you not wish to stay for the weekend a dinner dance on the Saturday evening is another way of keeping in touch with your fellow members.

B.S.



2 Y/Y's

The all yellow flowers in division 2 have long been a neglected section for several reasons. There is no natural source of breeding material so most seedlings of this form are either from trumpet crosses which fail to meet the standard measurement, or Y/O crosses where the colour has receded.

The demand for 2Y/Y's has also been limited as an exhibitor staging a major collection feels that he is at no advantage if he is unable to include a flower of this type in the way that the absence of a 1Y/Y or 2Y/O would be noticed. As a result we see more introductions in the more popular sub-divisions 2Y/O, 2W/P, and 2W/W in one season than all the 2Y/Y's in any one of the last four decades and in fact my research has failed to reveal any worthwhile 2Y/Y registered during the 1950's.

Looking through my records of prize winners at major shows over recent years, I find that only 12 cultivars have featured in the awards and with such a small number we can look at them all in order of registration.

- GOLDEN TORCH (Brodie 1942) Rarely seen outside local shows except to complete a collection early in the season. Has good substance, a half length cup, rather deeper in colour than perianth.
- GALWAY (J.L.R. 1943) Borderline trumpet-it has been suggested that it is 1Y/Y. Still a regular winner and will be seen for many years yet particularly where cases of 3 blooms are required.
- ORMEAU (Dunlop 1949) A reliable cultivar worth a place in any collection Trumpet style cup well within division 2 measurements, good form and clear colour.
- ST. KEVERNE (M.P. Williams 1949) An early season flower but its starlike perianth is a handicap for keen competition. First rate for garden display and a future market flower.
- CAMELOT (J.L.R. 1962) Bred from Kingscourt-Ceylon, has won many prizes in the past but lacks the finish for front line competition today. May be rather short in the stem in some districts, and has lost ground as a show flower in recent years.
- BUTTERSCOTCH (Mitch 1963) Has won its share of prizes but has never impressed me enough to acquire it while Galway and Ormeau were reliable.
- GOLDEN AURA (J.L.R. 1964) Best bloom at R.H.S. 1964 when first shown under number, and a regular winner since, including many Best in Show. Smaller than most leading exhibition flowers but many Judges are more lenient on size than on a shortfall from the ideal in form and colour. Will continue to win prizes for many years yet and your collection is not complete without it.
- STRINES (Board 1965) Trumpet like cup, well within division 2, flowers before mid-season, and most useful for collections. In single bloom classes, most Judges give preference to Golden Aura, probably penalising Strines for its minor pointed petals.
- GOLDEN JOY (Bloomer 1973) One of the many good flowers raised from Camelot-Artic Gold. Clear mid yellow with good outline from broad rounded petals. Can be short in stem but should have a good future at shows.

- GOLDEN JEWEL (Bloomer 1973) Sister to Golden Joy but deeper in colour with pointed minor petals. I have not seen it often enough to make a final judgement, but definitely one to watch for when it is more readily available.
- GOLDEN RANGER (J.L.R. 1974) From the prolific cross Camelot-Daydream, this has good size and form but when I have seen it the perianth has been rather paler than the cup, a feature that many Judges penalise in close competition. This should be winning prizes for many years in collection classes.
- BRYANSTON (Blanchard) Has a reputation based on best bloom and reserve best bloom in R.H.S. early competitions in consecutive years. Is clear deep yellow and striking in appearance with outstanding smoothness, but the minor petals are rather too narrow and pointed for my taste.
- GREAT EXPECTATIONS (L.J.R. 1977) Available from Mrs. Abel Smith.
I have not seen much of this but recall it as golden replica of Daydream and has been noted as one to look for in the future.

In addition to the above, there are a number of cultivars available from overseas and although I have seen illustrations or slides, I defer comment until I have seen them grown in this country.

The only one I can recommend is Kingbird (Mitsch 1972), bred from parents 2Y/0's but almost self yellow and on first sight appears to be 3Y/Y but careful measurement has put it in division 2. I have grown this for four years but so far have preferred to use it for breeding rather than test its show potential. Well worth trying if you can get a bulb.

Assuming that you have your selection from Galway, Ormeau, Golden Aura, and Strines, sooner or later you will wish to add one or more of the later introductions. My present short list is Golden Joy and Golden Ranger, but I will keep a sharp eye on Great Expectations and any cultivars imported from U.S.A. and down under. It is most unlikely that I shall import these myself as, like many other growers, I consider 2Y/Y's as an optional extra and they are usually the first to be deleted when I match my short list of wants against what I have room for and what I can afford to spend.

2 Y/R's

I make no excuse for listing mainly John Lea's cultivars. I only live a few miles from him and being privileged to see his new seedlings as soon as they open, I am obviously influenced by the man and his flowers, which I consider to be head and shoulders above any other 2Y-Rs yet seen.

My only claim to fame in the daffodil world is to have discovered the cultivar Stourbridge. I used the word discovered because it flowered with me from a mixed batch of Lea seedlings. I exhibited the bloom at the Stourbridge show and after winning with it, Mr. Lea named the bloom Stourbridge. During its second show season Stourbridge won at the Daffodil Society Show at Solihull, beating Red Rum. Unfortunately I have not seen it in such good form since.

This then is my list of favourite 2Y-Rs.

LOCH HOPE

Sheer perfection with Mr. Lea, but not yet seen at its best with amateurs. I think this one needs to settle down with the grower. My bulbs have just started to produce good flowers after several years growing. A very early cultivar.

TORRIDON

The richest coloured and most consistent of daffodils. Almost every bloom coming good. I need to grow this one just a little bit larger.

LOCH LUNDY

A superb recent introduction and possibly the best, only time will tell.

LOCH NAVER

Another superb flower having the advantage of being quite late for a 2Y-R.

SEEDLING 1-24-71 lea (Vulcan x Seedling)

Wonderful new cultivar in the style of Torridon to be named in the near future. Colours up well even in the greenhouse.

SEEDLING 2-25-69 lea

A Vulcan seedling that I purchased a few years ago from Mr. Lea. This one has won for me at every showing. Petals are so thick and flat that they are difficult to manipulate. It could be named one day.

SHINING LIGHT

This 2Y-R must be the most widely grown and shown of all. Not as well coloured as some but it is reasonably priced and can hold its own in any company.

IRISH LIGHT

The best Richardson 2Y-R at the moment although Red Rum and Bold Lad may still prove to be better when more widely grown. Not quite overlapping enough in the perianth although I cannot find anything in the rules to condemn this as being a fault. Mrs. Richardson sold her stocks before she passed away and perhaps there will be some very good bulbs amongst them.

ESTRAMADURA

I have been very impressed with this cultivar after seeing it win its class at London. I have purchased three bulbs for the first time but I am bitterly disappointed as they all show distinct signs of Yellow Stripe Virus, as do several other new cultivars bought this year. It is a very expensive hobby when they have to end on the bonfire.

March 1980

C. Postles

New Members.

Mrs. Amy Cole Anthony, Bloomfield, Conn. U.S.A.
 Mr. Ian Erskine, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
 Mr. Ivor Fox, Leeds, England.
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Franton, Brentwood, Tennessee. U.S.A.
 Mrs. C.M. Grainger, Holywood, Co. Down.
 Miss M. Greenlees, Bangor, Co. Down.
 Mr. Akira Horinaka, Osaka, Japan.
 Mr. Gerard Knehans Jr. Missouri, U.S.A.
 Mr. W. Lemmers, Lisse, Holland.
 Mrs. Wanda A. Lahmann, Salem, Oregon, U.S.A.
 Mrs. M. Pearson, Bangor, Co. Down.
 Mrs. Abel Smith, Hertford, England.
 Mrs. E. Stanford, Tennessee, U.S.A.
 Mrs. J.H. Talbot, Tennessee, U.S.A.
 Mrs. E. Winthrop, Kent, England.

2 Y/R's

When asked by Bob Sterling to write my thoughts on the latest and best 2Y-R's I came to the conclusion that it would only be fair to comment on those which I have grown for a number of years, as unless they prove consistent in producing show quality blooms they do not qualify as 'best'.

Commencing with early flowers I would put 'Loch Hope' at the top of the list, in fact I would go as far as to say that this is the best red and yellow I grow. It has a smooth well coloured perianth and a brilliant red cup, and produces a high proportion of perfect flowers. It has, however, two faults, it is not sunproof and I would prefer that the rather 'snouty' cup were a better shape. 'Falstaff' I find reasonably good for size and colour, but to my mind rather unbalanced. 'Estremadura' is only in its second year with me but would seem to be well worth growing, judging by the blooms shown with success by other exhibitors. 'Torridon' has so far been very disappointing as none of the flowers has been large enough to exhibit, the perianth never completely flattens but tends to hood. It has, of course,

wonderful colour, and I am using it extensively in my breeding programme. Before leaving the early cultivars I must mention one old timer, Vulcan, which every year produces at least one or two really good show flowers. I feel no budding exhibitor should be without this one.

'Drumrunie', which for me would be classified as mid-season, is very good and always large, probably not a single bloom flower but a good stand by in collections because of its size, as one medium sized flower (which these days is a euphemism for small, in exhibition parlance) will damn the whole collection. 'Irish Light' unfortunately succumbed to 'Stripe', but did produce good blooms with plenty of substance and colour. However I feel this did not compensate for the rather indeterminate shape, so consequently this has not been replaced. 'Loch Stac' is a flower which has everything going for it in colour, balance and smoothness, but lacks one thing, size, therefore its only value is in a vase of three, where the lack of size is not too apparent. 'Shining Light' I find excellent in every respect and is another good stand by.

Of the late cultivars I can thoroughly recommend 'Cattistock', this is a much under-rated flower as it has a smooth well coloured perianth and a richly coloured cup, it is indispensable as it flowers so much later than any others of its class. 'Bunclody' has produced very good blooms and has wonderful colour, though I find difficulty in obtaining large enough flowers.

During the coming Spring I will have 'Loch Lundie' and 'Loch Naver' flowering for the first time as they have been added to my collection on the evidence of their achievements on the show bench in recent years.

In conclusion I should like to comment on one or two cultivars that I have seen but not grown. 'Barnsdale Wood' has greatly impressed me when shown, but as it has been 'none to offer' for three years it would appear that it must be slow to increase. 'Red Rum' looked very good indeed when shown by Mrs. Richardson, but like so many of her last introductions the stock seems to be widely dispersed, one can only hope that in time they will re-appear in a catalogue.

There is still plenty of scope for improvement in this sub-division, as there are too few really consistent cultivars with the colour, smoothness and size to match the quality found among the white flowers.

DOWN UNDER IN GODZONE

OWAKA, NEW ZEALAND

Growing daffodils has become very much part of our way of life in our district of Owaka in South Otago. For over 50 years the Presbyterian Spring Show has flourished and during those years some very fine daffodils have been raised and grown. In the early 1930's Mr. Ron Crews raised seedlings and many of these were registered and even today his daffodils can be found blooming on the hillside where his old cottage stands deserted. A fitting memory to his deserving work.

In the early years competition was just as keen as it is today. A story well known in the district was that a certain exhibitor arrived at the show to find that one of his best blooms had broken in the stem - he disappeared from the hall for some time, and arrived back with the same flower looking perfect. Later it was found that he had placed a straw in the stem, only to be disqualified by a very observant judge. The stories told by many of those early years are still vivid and thank the good lord that law and order reigns here again and daffodil growing and showing is a happy time for all. From the early 1930's to the present time yellow fever is very strong in Owaka. With a population of only 500 the spring show is one of the highlights of the year. Exhibitors travel many miles and from early morning until judging begins the hall is alive with activity.

The Novice section is the largest it has ever been with up to 12 competing for a Trophy that requires 3 wins to be able to retain it permanently. The Amateur and Open section is not so well contested but entries are good and competition very keen. The Open section has 27 entries with 3 blooms of each as well as the Championship class which is the usual 12 varieties from 3 divisions. More often than not every class has 3 or 4 exhibits. We find that each district seems to stick to their favourite daffodils and Owaka is no exception. Our show would not be complete without such flowers as Tudor Minstrel which grows not very large but always smooth. Signal Light seems to still take preference over some of the later varieties and for 2 years was Champion Bloom. Empress of Ireland grows well and gained an award of merit at the last show. Carrickbeg is a constant winner and no grower is without this favourite. Preamble grows better than most 1WY's and always finds its way to the top. Galway is shown with much merit. Glendermott is always worthy of a prize. Double Event grows well and can take a premier almost every year. Many of the older varieties flourish in this district and one gets to love these daffodils even with the newer varieties appearing on our show benches.

For some unknown reason the Narcissi Fly has had a busy time this season. For the first time in years it has been reported that many bulbs had been attacked and thus resulting in a great loss to growers. We have always been able to comment that it is far too cold down here for the fly but somehow they seemed to have arrived clad in fur coats to do the damage. At the end of each daffodil season with planting completed folk gather down here to say farewell to the success and failures of the past season. This year my husband and I hosted a very enjoyable evening with daffodil friends from far and near. We all feel it an honour to be associated with the daffodil people of the world - even if we do live Down Under in Godzone.

THE DAFFODIL SEASON IN NORTHERN IRELAND

W J TOAL

The cold and exceptionally wet autumn and winter dragged on through the early months of the year and by mid-March there were few signs of lengthening stems and bending necks. Seering cold winds had been sweeping in from the north-east and growth remained at a standstill for weeks. It was almost the middle of April before the weather was showing any signs of improvement and then as if to make reparation for its delinquencies of the past the sun shone daily from a cloudless sky, while the temperature soared at noontide only to fall by 25 degrees F. at nightfall. The flowers were unfolding with undue haste with the result that ribbed and nicked petals were very much in evidence.

Gilnahirk, Dundonald, and Cregagh Show on April 5th proved much too early for most exhibitors and in consequence the entries were fewer than usual. In the principal class for 12 Single Blooms, Mr G Andrews won with a very creditable collection which included good flowers of 'Red Cottage', 'Drumrunie', and 'Park Springs'. Mr J Carlisle came second with another creditable group which included good examples of 'Ceylon' and 'Woodgreen'. These two exhibitors shared the honours in most of the Open classes and I particularly noticed a very good flower of 'Glensheak' which won the White Trumpet class for Mr Carlisle, while Mr Andrews staged a well matched vase of 'Rose Royale' to win a 3 Bloom class, while he was also the winner of a 5 Bloom class with an immaculate vase of 'Dove Wings'. The paucity of the entries was very noticeable in the Novice section and it fell to Mrs Reynolds to capture the award for the best bloom in this section with a very good 'Newcastle', so good, indeed, as to be in contention for Best Bloom in Show. This latter award going to Mr Andrews for a very nice bloom of 'Drumrunie'.

Portadown Show on April 12th was still much too early for most exhibitors and the entries were thin on the benches. In the Championship Class for 12 Blooms Mr T R Eakins had an easy win with a well balanced group which included good flowers of 'Ariel', 'Loch Hope', 'Gambler's Gift', 'Newcastle', and 'Ben Hee'

a flower of good quality and substance which secured the award for Best Bloom in Show. Mr Eakins had the distinction of winning most of the other open classes showing among others good examples of 'Park Springs', 'Newcastle', 'Rockall', 'Tudor Love', 'Dimity', and a very good bloom of 'White Prince'. Mr J Bownass had winners in the single bloom classes with 'Loch Stac' and a Lea seedling, while Mr Best won a 3 Bloom class with an evenly matched vase of 'Tonga'. A pleasing feature of the Show was the very good entry in the Novice section, Mr McCredy, Miss Ruth Bownass and Mrs Tartalon sharing the awards.

The improvement in the weather was reflected in the entry secured for Hillsborough Show on April 19th. Here the principal class for 12 Single Blooms was won by Mr Eakins showing an even group of flowers which included 'Golden Rapture', 'Rhub-Mor', 'Broomhill', and a lovely smooth flower of 'Loch Hope'. Mr G Andrews and Mr J Bownass were second and third respectively, the former's best flowers were 'Cold Overton', 'Purbeck' and a very good 'Golden Aura', whilst Mr Bownass had a very good 'Pennine Way' in his group. In the 3 Bloom classes Mr Eakins' winning exhibits featured 'Golden Rapture', 'Loch Stac', and 'Merlin' while Mr Andrews won the Division IV class with a good vase of 'Papa'. Winners in the Single Bloom classes were 'Newcastle', 'Empress of Ireland', 'Hotspur', 'Cool Autumn', 'Ben Hee', 'Dimity', 'Aircastle', 'Fair Prospect', 'Honeybird', 'Ringleader', and 'Unique' (Mr Eakins); 'Carrickbeg' and 'Rockall' (Mr Bownass); 'Golden Aura', 'Loch Naver' and 'Merlin' (Mr Andrews). In the Novice section the Best Bloom award was won by Mr McCredy with a good bloom of 'Newcastle', while the award for Best Bloom in Show went to Mr Eakins for a smooth and flawless 'Loch Hope'.

The Enniskillen Gardening Society annual spring show on 19th April proved to be one of their most competitive for years. The guest judges, Mr and Mrs W H Roese, California, had many deliberations in deciding the various open classes. The Society's two main supporters, viz Jack Carlisle and Michael Ward faced strong competition from Sandy McCabe and Brian Duncan - the latter showing only flowers of his own raising. In most of the classes it was a case of a permutation of any three from these four in filling the first three places.

Flowers which were in the running for the Best Bloom award - the Malone Cup - were two 'Golden Aura', 'Irish Light', and 'Rameses' - all exhibited by M Ward, 'Galahad' and 'Crenelet' shown by Sandy McCabe and Brian Duncan's 'Sportsman'. The award was finally given to 'Galahad' to reward Sandy McCabe with his first ever Best Bloom award. However it was an extremely close contest. Michael Ward and Jack Carlisle shared the Northern Bank Cup - awarded for most points in the Open Classes and The Burke Cup which is confined to members of the Fermanagh Society. Appropriately enough a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Sandy McCabe won the R U C Cup which called for six varieties, Ulster raised.

Ballymena Show on April 23rd attracted another good entry and the standard was high. In the 3 Bloom classes the honours were shared between Carncairn and Rathowen, the former staging winning vases of 'Strathkanaird', 'Misty Glen', 'Cool Crystal', and 'Desert Rose', while the latter relied for their winners on 'Shining Light', Seedling D497, 'Acroplis' and 'Lilac Charm'. In the 12 Bloom class, Rathowen, showing Bloomer seedlings, proved the winner. They were an even group of blooms of which B325, B393, B366, B280 and B281 were very noticeable. Carncairn and Ballydorn shared the minor honours, the former's best flowers were 'Don Carlos', 'Stourbridge', 'Loch Assynt', and Seedling R175, while Ballydorn had good flowers of 'Rose Royale', 'Tullybeg', and 'Golden Radiance'. In the Single Bloom classes Rathowen had winners with 'White Star', 'Loch Hope', 'Loch Alvey', 'Dimity', 'Dr Hugh', 'Daydream', 'Old Satin' and Seedlings D335, D490, D433, and D335, while Carncairn won with 'Don Carlos', 'Ringleader', 'Cool Crystal', 'Fair Prospect', and 'Highfield Beauty'. Mr Sandy McCabe provided the winner of the Division IV class with a very good bloom of the consistent 'Unique'. Competition was keen in the Intermediate section and Mr T J Brown had winners with 'Loughanmore', 'Tudor Minstrel', and 'Irish Ranger', while Mr W Hall won the Collection class showing among others 'Bunclody', 'Daydream', 'Woodland Star', and 'Foundling'. In the Novice section Mr M Kerr, Mr G Whiteside and Miss T Bankhead, were the principal winners showing a very creditable lot of flowers.

This year Bangor had the honour of staging the Championship Show on April 26th. In the Championship Class for 12 Single Blooms Mr B Duncan just pipped Mr T R Eakins for First place. His very even and well staged group of his own seedlings included 'Violetta', 'Ulster Bank', and Seedlings D336 and D598, the former a lovely smooth and well poised flower was adjudged Best Flower in Show. Mr Eakins' group, on abnormally long stems, included 'Loch Lundie', 'Loch Hope', 'Aircastle', 'Achduart', and 'White Prince'. Carncairn's Third Prize group included good flowers of 'Fair Prospect', 'Rockall' and 'Syracuse', while very creditable groups were staged by Mr J Carlisle, Mr G Andrews, and Mr M Ward, all the way from Dublin.

In the Class for American Raised Varieties Mrs K Reade (Carncairn) was the winner her best flowers being 'Cool Crystal', 'Aircastle', and 'Daydream', while Mr Duncan (Rathowen) second prize group included good flowers of 'Bit of Gold', and 'Resplendant'. The Royal Mail Trophy for three blooms each of six Ulster raised varieties was won by Mr Duncan whose best vases were those of 'Snoope', 'Nymphette', and 'Jumbo Gold'. Close competition was provided by Ballydorn who staged telling vases of 'Jamestown' and 'Omaha'. Ballydorn won the Trophy for the best unregistered seedling with No 74/130, a Crepello type flower. Mr Eakins won four of the smaller collection classes with good vases of 'Rockall', 'Verona', 'Bunclody', and 'Merlin'. Mr Carlisle had a winner with 'Daydream', Mr Ward with 'Acroplis' and Mrs Reade with 'Fair Prospect', while Mr Duncan had two winners with Seedlings D321 and D324, both very white flowers. In the Single Bloom classes Mr Eakins had worthy winners with 'Newcastle', 'White Prince', 'Cool Autumn', 'Achduart', 'Poet's Way' and 'Loch Hope' which secured the reserve Best Bloom award. Mrs Reade had winners with 'Strathcanaird', 'Daydream', and 'Fair Prospect', Mr Ward with 'Acroplis', a very good 'Hotspur', 'Misty Glen', and 'Verona', and Mr Duncan with 'Fortitude' and 'Lilac Charm'. Mr Carlisle was narrowly beaten in a few classes but his 'Merlin' was good enough to prove a winner. The Intermediate classes were well supported and Mr Newport from Dublin won the principal class for six varieties, his best flowers being 'Acroplis', 'Verona', and 'Border Chief'.

Mr Todd, Mr Briën and Miss Bankhead were the winners of the 3 Bloom classes the latter showing good vases of 'Verona', 'Fiji', and 'Ballyrobert', while in the Single Bloom classes Mr Todd had winners with 'Empress of Ireland', 'Tudor Minstrel', and 'Crown Royalist'; Mrs Jones with 'Ballygarvey', 'Capisco', and 'Lintie'; Mr Briën with 'Daydream'; Mr Newport with 'Acroplis' and Miss Bankhead with 'Golden Joy', 'Ringmaster' and 'Foundling'.

Although we enjoyed days of unbroken sunshine, the biting cold winds still persisted and the flowers were rapidly losing their freshness before the Omagh Show on May 3rd. In the Dr Hugh Watson Memorial Trophy Class, Mrs Reade (Carncairn) had another excellent group of flowers which included 'Shining Light', 'Inverpolly', 'Bunclody', 'Rockall', and a particularly good bloom of 'Ashmore'. Rathowen staged an immaculate group of Tom Bloomer seedlings, amongst which was 'Galahad', quite the best yellow Trumpet that appeared at any show this year, while Mr S McCabe had good examples of 'April Cloud', 'Verona', 'Bunclody', and 'Evenlode'. The placings were in this order.

In the class for American Raised Varieties, Mrs Reade was the winner with a well matched group which included 'Sunapee', 'Coral Light', and 'April Charm'. Mr Duncan was in close contention with good flowers of 'Chiloquin', 'Old Satin', and the lovely little 'Ocean Spray'. The Evelyn Bell Trophy was won by Mrs Reade showing 'Cool Crystal', 'Bunclody', and 'Shane's Castle'. Rathowen relying on Seedlings, two of the best being D307 and D327, occupied second place. In the 3 Bloom classes Rathowen had a winner with a mixed vase of 'Golden Jewel' and Seedlings B339 and 384, while other winners were 'Lancaster' (Ballydom), 'Double Event' (Carlisle) and 'Poet's Way' (McCabe), while the Six Bloom Ulster Raised Class was won by Mrs Reade who included in her collection 'Creme de Menthe', 'Zeus', and Seedling W520, the latter a very smooth and solid flower capturing the award for Best Bloom. Ballydom came second in this class with a very good collection which included 'Jamestown', 'Omaha', and 'Lisbane'. In the Single Bloom Classes Mrs Reade had winners with 'Loughanmore', 'Initiation', 'Bunclody', and 'Dromona': Mr Carlisle with 'White Star' and 'Golden Aura', Mr McCabe with 'Newcastle' and 'Shandon', Mr Ward with a seedling of his own raising 67/9/I.

Seedlings B365 and D465 provided Rathowen with two winners, while they also secured the award for the Best Bloom Division I with 'Galahad' and Division III with 'Ulster Bank'.

Here as at Ballymena and Bangor we were joined by our American friends Mr and Mrs W H Roesse, Mr and Mrs C H Anthony, and Mr and Mrs A Chappell from New Zealand. How nice it was to see them and what pleasure we had with their company.

The season came to an end with the late Show at Carncairn on May 11th. This annual event has become more of a social occasion than a show and this year was no exception for we were graciously entertained to afternoon tea by Mr and Mrs Reade and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent in admiring the flowers staged for our admiration by Rathowen, Carncairn and Ballydom. To all of them our very special thanks and appreciation. And so in blazing sunshine amidst the sylvan surroundings of Carncairn we said farewell to the daffodil season for another year. It was a short and most enjoyable season marred only by the absence of our genial Hon Secretary, Mr R Sterling, who was undergoing surgery in a Belfast Hospital. Happily he is now quite recovered and we all look forward to having him in our midst soon again. How we missed him and his candid comments.



WORLD DAFFODIL TOUR 1979
Commemorative Tree Planting at
Guy L. Wilson Garden,
New University of Ulster, Coleraine.
W. O. TICKNOR (U.S.A.)

TOM BLOOMER SEEDLINGS 1980

After the 1965 flowering season Tom Bloomer took a rest from hybridising and seed sowing. Had he stopped there he could look back, with pride and satisfaction, on his efforts which yielded such outstanding and high class beauties as "White Star", "Silent Valley", "Midas Touch", "Golden Joy", and "Poet's Way", all of which have won their classes in London and elsewhere.

A renewed burst of enthusiasm for pollen dabbing in the years 1970 - 1973 has resulted in a crop of seedlings which I have had the privilege of growing on and making selections. Some of these have now flowered for a few years and have reached the stage at which a fairly useful assessment can be made. I think there are some which have the potential to make a significant impact on the show scene in the years ahead. It is gratifying too that some represent sub-divisions in which Mr Bloomer did not previously produce any real winners. There are excellent pinks, some really outstanding yellow/reds and white/reds from Divisions 2 and 3, some lovely 3W-Y and 3W-GYY in addition to the expected yellow and white trumpets. There might even be a couple of more than useful bi-colour trumpets from the numerous crosses made in search of improvement in this difficult division.

The following seedlings were the almost unanimous favourites of an international team of assessors which included the Roeses (California), the Anthony's (Connecticut), the Chappell's (New Zealand), Billy Toal, Tom Bloomer, Clarke Campbell, and the writer.

5 Star Seedlings:

- B.240 1W-W (White Star X White Majesty). Similar to and may be even better than "White Star". Nominee for Best Bloom, London 1980, when shown in Mr Bloomer's Engleheart Group.
- B.280 2Y-R (Shining Light X Achduart). Very smooth texture, slight reflex, form like Shining Light but with better colour enhanced by green eye.

- B. 287 3Y-R (? X Achduart). May set a new standard for colour in both perianth and cup in its class. Very smooth and flat and seems to be sun proof.
- B. 289 2W-O (Irish Charm X R202) X Royal Regiment. Lovely form, poeticus white perianth, deep orange cup.
- B. 306 3W-GWY (Shantallow X Woodland Prince). Beautiful colour, form and texture with size and substance to spare. Great future predicted.
- B. 339 2Y-R (Richhill X Masai King) X Bunclody. Excellent colour, form and texture.
- B. 384 2W-GPP (Passionale X Bloomer Sdg.). Large, consistent, lovely show form and colour. Chosen as best of all by several assessors.
- B. 425 3Y-R (Sun Fire X Achduart). Large, round, good form, colour and pose. A real advance in its class.
- B. 218 2W-GYOY (Irish Charm X R202) X Royal Regiment. Very smooth, lovely form and colour blend which requires an extra code letter.
- B. 233 1W-Y (April Harvest X Newcastle). Best unregistered seedling Omagh Show 1978 and First Prize single bloom class at Ballymena 1980. Lovely substance and texture, long deep yellow, slender based trumpet with nice roll.
- B. 286 1W-GWW (White Majesty X White Star). Super large flower of 'Rashee' style, pure white.
- B. 291 2Y-R (Break of Day X Shining Light). A larger and more brilliant version of its pollen parent.
- B. 293 3W-R (Spring Magic X Maid of Ulster). Sparkling white perianth of perfect form and texture with beautifully formed deep orange red cup. Sunproof and exceptionally durable. Might prove to be one of the very best of its type.

CARNCAIRN DAFFODILS LTD.

SEEDLINGS 1980

W 5/20. 2 W-WWY. Best Bloom Omagh 1980. Green Island x Tobernavreen.
A tall large rounded flower with a flattish fluted corona edged with yellow. The yellow fades very quickly unless cut young.

Has tremendous thick texture and is a strong grower, but a slow increaser.

Name not yet decided.

102/60. Home Fires x Armada. Clear solid orange cup slightly expanded and serrated.

Very little staining in the perianth which is pure white and the segments are slightly shovel-shaped. Not shown.

2 W-O.

1/75. 2 O-O Vulcan x Spelter. (First prize O-O class in London 1980.)
A very rounded all over orange flower much coveted by breeders. Long lasting and very striking but small.

We hope to name it 'Fireball'.

1/3/71. 2 W-P. This seedling was bred from Irish Rose x Rose Caprice, so the grandparents were good. First prize in late show at Carncairn. Very short necked smooth flower with a good perianth. Late. Beautiful clear pink.

Our new 3 W-W 'Irish Linen' once again was awarded first prize in its class in Omagh. Bred from Wootton seedling 866 x Hamzali. This has proved that it is not what Wells Knierim calls 'a oncer'. Hopefully it will increase well as it looks healthier than most in this class. Only snag, it is very late, but it does well in pots.

We had a large batch of seedlings flowering well this year from a Frigid x Silver Chimes cross. Sadly only two of them came with more than one head, and we are wondering if it was in reality Frigid self-pollinated. They are still very interesting as a lot of them had small double flowers very circular in form, and one with two tiny double heads on one stem.

KATE READE



DAVID JACKSON
(Tasmania)

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.

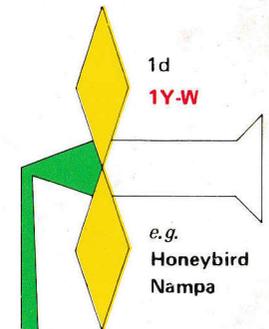
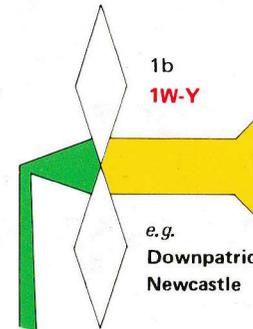
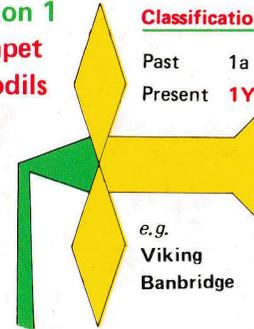
The Revised System of Classification of Daffodils

1977

Division 1 Trumpet Daffodils

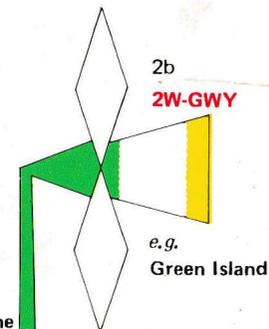
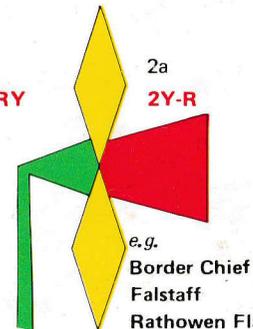
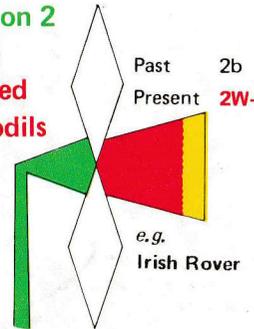
Classification:

Past 1a
Present **1Y-Y**



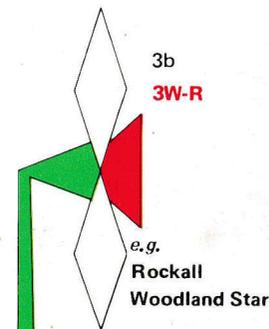
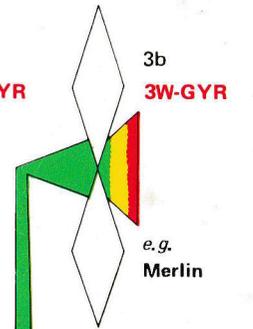
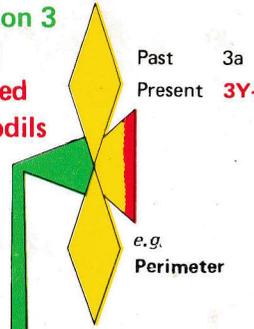
Division 2 Large Cupped Daffodils

Past 2b
Present **2W-RRY**



Division 3 Small Cupped Daffodils

Past 3a
Present **3Y-YR**



Green in the eye-zone is normally only visible from the face view and not in profile as illustrated above.