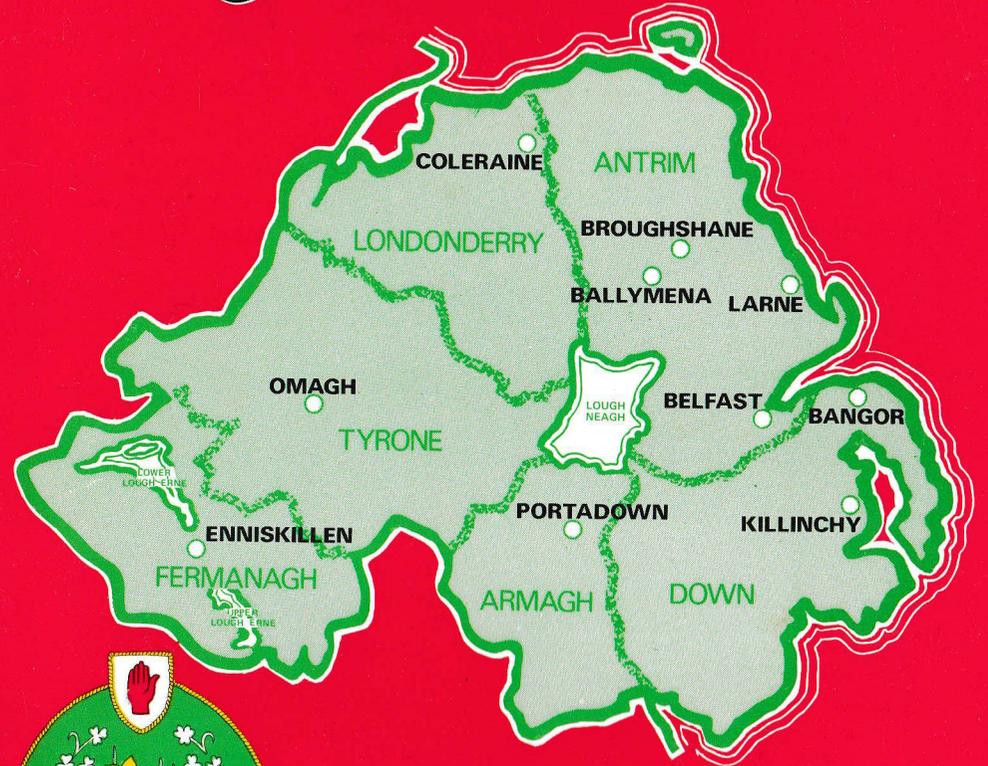


Newsletter

of the
**Northern Ireland
Daffodil Group**



Half-yearly publication of the
Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

**AUGUST 1981
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

August, 1981

Vol. 1 No. 9

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R. STERLING Editor of Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

Chairman's Remarks

In January last when elected as your Chairman, the pride which I felt at being so honoured was tempered with a feeling of humility. The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group had just completed 2 very successful years under the leadership of Mr. Duncan. During his time in office we had experienced the acme of our existence — the World Convention.

I was conscious of the old saying that when one is at the top the only way to go is downwards. To prevent this I realise that we must consolidate and strengthen our group and have a new goal in view. In the consolidation and strengthening I seek your help. We must attract new enthusiasts and with all respect to our existing members, any new recruits must preferably be young. Off hand I can only think of 2 enthusiastic teenagers. Perhaps there is a case for special classes at our local Shows for our younger exhibitors.

It has already been tentatively mooted in some quarters that we extend an invitation to the American Daffodil Society to hold their Annual Convention in Northern Ireland. I see no reason why this should not happen. We are as close to their Eastern Seaboard as is California, where the 1981 American Convention was held. I would be pleased to have your comments on this proposition — particularly from our American members.

Another flowering season has ended and our thoughts turn to ground preparation, bulb selection, etc. for next year's prizewinners. It is at this time that each of us reflects on the past season's glories and disappointments.

Personally the 1981 season will always be remembered as the most frustrating which I have ever experienced. An enforced transfer from Omagh to Ballymena, the acquisition of a house backed by a large uncultivated wilderness which claimed to be a garden, meant I had to take a year's rest from exhibition. In reconciling myself to this fact I was looking forward with eager anticipation to enjoying the social side of our gatherings.

I had hoped to visit as many Shows as possible, judge where asked and generally take pleasure in not having to worry about transporting, staging and salvaging flowers for the next event. Alas it was not to be.

Unusual pressure of work (which unfortunately is still continuing as I write) only permitted brief visits to a few Shows and a somewhat longer trip to London.

However my wilderness is now semi-tamed and my hopes for next year are already rising. One excuse which will no longer be valid is lack of space in which to grow a large number of varieties. So I am anticipating having numerous flowers to mount a vigorous assault on more Shows than ever before in 1982.

My thanks to all for their understanding of my position during most of the Show season when I was unable to play an active part. My apologies to the organisers of those Shows which I was unable to support and my best wishes to you all for next season.

SANDY McCABE, Ballymena

May 1981

Acclimatizing Daffodils

by ALF CHAPPELL

For many who may be reading this, acclimatizing daffodils would be a new experience. By this, I mean daffodils from the Southern Hemisphere.

Bulbs imported from America for instance, when imported to England or Ireland, need very little time to settle down, as the flowering times are very similar, likewise bulbs imported to America from the British Isles are not much different from buying bulbs from another State.

However, here in New Zealand, when we import bulbs from the Northern Hemisphere it is a matter of turning the flowering habits completely around and subjecting the bulb to a severe change. Many cultivars take to this in many different ways.

For instance bulbs which arrive by airmail here in New Zealand in September, and planted straight away will react differently. Some will come up and flower in February or March if kept well watered, and others will partially grow and die down while others may not come up at all.

However, the following spring, in September here, most will emerge again, although they may not flower after dying down and being lifted at the end of December. It will be found that they have multiplied quite a bit, although they may be smaller.

It is a good idea to hot water at this stage and when replanted they will produce first class flowers on the second year down.

All this may sound like a lot of bother, but those who live in the Northern Hemisphere must remember that here down under, we have been doing it for years.

Many raisers have had a very lucrative business selling their bulbs down here.

Now the tide has turned and I believe that we have many cultivars superior to those available in the Northern Hemisphere. Some Societies have classes for varieties raised in New Zealand, and I would like to see some of the amateur growers importing more of our better cultivars for this purpose. It is a lot of fun and adds some variety to the year's programme. For anyone interested, I would be pleased to supply a list of good consistent show flowers; catalogues are available from growers. It would be nice to see the New Zealand raised classes more supported.

Remember here the British Raisers Gold Cup calls for eighteen varieties, three of each, and often has five or six entries and all bulbs must have been raised in the British Isles.

This last year during our visit to England and Ireland, I was fortunate to be given some thirteen varieties by Tony Noton, all of his own raising. These were lifted there on July 4th and we arrived home with them one week later.

These were given standard H.W.T. of 3½ hours at 112°F and planted on July 15th, hoping that they may catch up a season. However, the first shoot appeared on November 7th, 1980 and growth has not been very vigorous, obviously showing the effects of being H.W.T. when buds and leaves are at such an early stage of development. However, this may be to the good and they will do better in the spring.

The next bulbs to arrive were from John Lea, at the beginning of September and were given the same H.W.T. and planted on 7th

September. These made very good growth and 'Loch Lundie' flowered on 7th February and 'Achduart' on 8th March. 'Delos' had no flowers and 'Golden Vale' has still to appear, although just below the surface.

The last bulbs to arrive were from Rathowen at the end of September, and these were given the same 3½ hour H.W.T. and planted on 30th September. These are all up and only 'Evenload' has flowered.

It is interesting to see how each has performed and I hope to give a further report in a later issue, on the next time up, in our spring and compare how each one has acclimatized.

In the meantime give some thought to importing some New Zealand raised; it all adds to the fun of growing and showing daffodils.

April, 1981

ALF CHAPPELL

Royal Wedding Gift

A fine selection of modern daffodils was included in a Wedding Gift of horticultural plant material of Northern Ireland origin which Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales have graciously accepted from the gardeners, hybridists and nurserymen of the Province.

These trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and bulbs will grace the Royal couple's garden at Highgrove, Gloucestershire and it is hoped that they will give much pleasure in the years ahead.

Below we copy a letter of thanks addressed to His Grace The Duke of Abercorn.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

From: Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Janion, KCV0,

30 July 1981

Dear Duke,

Before they left, The Prince and Princess of Wales asked me to send to you and all the gardeners and growers concerned their sincere thanks for the magnificent contribution to their garden at Highgrove. They are much looking forward to seeing the result once the planting has been done.

Their Royal Highnesses are very grateful indeed for this generous gift and ask if you could kindly pass on their warm thanks to everyone involved.

Yours Sincerely
Hugh Janion

An extract from a Brian Duncan Letter to Dr. D. Willis

(Continued from previous issue)

What are the flowers of my mind's-eye to be like? I will deal briefly with my aims for future improvements and development in the usual classification order, though there may be some overlapping of sub-divisions.

DIVISION 1 — TRUMPET DAFFODILS

1Y-Y

The yellow trumpets have progressed little since 'Kingscourt' appeared in 1938 despite thousands of seedlings being flowered and numerous varieties being registered. This indicates that a new approach is necessary. Apart from 'King's Ransom' (poor in other respects) and 'Midas Touch' no deep golden yellow trumpet has a sufficiently wide based "ace of spades" perianth segments as found, e.g. in 'Empress of Ireland' — a white trumpet. It may take two generations or more but I think major improvements may come from crossing 'Empress of Ireland' with deep golden trumpets such as 'Arctic Gold', 'King's Ransom', or 'Midas Touch'. I have a nice 1Y-Y seedling from 'Empress of Ireland' x 'Joybell' to be named 'Verdant' which may prove useful in skipping a generation. I have hopes that such crosses may help increase virus resistance in yellow trumpets and provide useful breeding material for better bi-colour trumpets. I am aware that to suggest crossing yellow with white amounts almost to sacrilege but progress has been so slight that I think the gamble is worthwhile. My yellow trumpet vision has the form and size of 'Empress of Ireland' combined with the deep gold and shining smooth texture of 'Arctic Gold' or 'Midas Touch'.

1W-Y

How about a consistent bi-colour trumpet of similar form to 'Empress of Ireland', 'White Star' or a good 'Newcastle' with a perianth of poeticus white and a trumpet of maximus gold? Such must be the ideal but I confess to a feeling of inadequacy when considering crosses towards this ideal. I have flowered several hundred seedlings from numerous crosses but muddy or stained perianths mar those with good trumpet colour, pale trumpets always seem to attach themselves to those with good white perianths.

'White Empress' which is the purest white trumpet I know sometimes yields bi-colour even when crossed with another white. It may have possibilities if crossed with the American raised 'Descanso' and 'Wahkeena' which have good white perianths and smooth texture. One or two of Mr. Bloomer's new seedlings may prove to be better than 'Newcastle' but the perianths are not pure white — they will be crossed with the above-named "Americans". Though I will continue to double in this sub-division I feel results are more likely to come from someone like Malcolm Bradbury, a young man from Essex, who is making a speciality of this sub-division — may he produce that pure white/unfading deep gold bi-colour of my dreams.

1W-W

With Tom Bloomer's 'White Star' in the field it is difficult to imagine further improvement — it has purity of colour, smoothness of texture, elegance of form, consistency, great dignity and size combined with vigour of growth, length of stem and a show bench record unequalled for a flower of its age. Nevertheless there is room for variation in similar quality and I look forward to a white trumpet amalgam comprising the glistening whiteness of 'White Empress', the breadth of petal of 'Empress of Ireland' and the poise of 'Panache' combined with those 'White Star' qualities already listed. I would like to have three or four variations on this theme — trumpets of the slender form and green eye of 'Silent Valley' or with the generous flange of 'White Empress' or the finely toothed edge of 'White Majesty' should satisfy most tastes. I have made crosses towards these ends and only patience and time will indicate the success or otherwise of my efforts. In such a high class field anything new will have to be really exceptional as regards flower quality though added stem length and resistance to basal rot would be worthy improvements.

1Y-W

The reversed bi-colour trumpet are a pretty uncouth lot in a very early stage of development. They are all still a long way off the ideal of a deep golden perianth and a pure white trumpet and the form of even the best, is poor. Grant Mitsch's American raised 'Honeybird' is about the best I have seen but it is an "on-off" sort of flower of imprecise contrast. I think progress is likely to come from the progeny of the Division 2 'Daydream'. I have some seedlings from it which show nice depth of colour and contrast whereas 'Honeybird' has yielded little to excite interest. Carncairn's 'Gin and Lime' is receiving acclaim and should be a worthy parent as should many more recent Mitsch varieties and seedlings with which I am unacquainted. Some of Mrs. Richardson's near trumpet 'Camelot' x 'Daydream' seedlings such as 'Avalon', 'Amber Castle' and 'Cairngorm' crossed back to 'Daydream' might produce good flowers from Divisions 1 and 2.

1W-P

Pink trumpets are few and mostly raised in America, New Zealand and Australia. 'Rima' from Mitsch is probably best known, the colour is good, cup length is not in doubt but the general form and consistency leave much to be desired. Richardson's 'Rosedew' was quite nice but had a muddy perianth, impure coppery shades and was susceptible to virus. This is a field wide open for someone wishing to concentrate on a particular type. I saw some promising new ones at Mitsch's in Oregon but perianths were still not pure white. 'Rima' is an obvious parent and it might be interesting to try it with 'Lilac Charm' which has a full length trumpet. From my winter-planned crosses which never "got done", I see the suggestions of 'Empress of Ireland' and 'Preamble' x 'Rima' and 'Rose Royale' which still seem like fair ideas to produce first generation breeding material. I crossed 'Rima' x 'Rosedew' in 1970 and it did not yield one flower worthy of selection for further trial — rightly or wrongly I blamed 'Rosedew' which has a yellow trumpet grandfather, which may further explain its tendency to stripe. A few Antipodean pink trumpets have been obtained and I hope to make greater efforts in this class in the future — the ideal may be a long way off but improvement should be possible with well planned crosses.

1Y-R

Red trumpets on yellow perianths are now with us though generally in inferior quality. John Lea's 'Glenfarclas', of doubtful measurement but trumpet appearance is the nearest thing to a show quality flower in this colour. I have now crossed it with some of the Backhouse varieties, 'Deseado', 'Dalinda', etc. and await the results. The Australian raised 'Trumpet Call' has been obtained for breeding purposes but I think best results might be obtained by crossing 'Midas Touch' or 'Golden Jewel' (which are reputed to have 'Ceylon' in their pedigree through 'Camelot') with 'Glenfarclas', 'Loch Owskeich' and little 'Jet Fire' the American red nosed cyclamineus. I have repeatedly crossed 'Loch Owskeich' with deep gold trumpet varieties and applied pollen of 'Jet Fire' and 'Satellite' to similar varieties but no seed resulted. The rough cold weather of the early season may account for the infertility and it may be necessary to store early pollen for application to later flowering varieties. A big break through is due in the yellow/red trumpets and I expect it to come from John Lea in England or Bill Pannill in the U.S.A.

1W-R

There is another trumpet possibility which would seem to be far in the future, i.e. white perianth and red trumpet. My neglected winter proposals towards this end propose both 'Preamble' and 'Newcastle' being crossed with 'Norval', 'Irish Rover', 'Loch Owskeich' and 'Irish Light' as a source of possible further breeding material. On further reflection the 1Y-R's mentioned in the paragraph above should also be used. Mr. Bruce James showed a 'Preamble' seedling with distinct orange flush in London several years ago which might have breeding potential though progeny of 'Preamble' is seldom seen in public. Certainly, I think a flower of 'Preamble' form with pure white perianth and unfading orange/red trumpet could be an attractive novelty well worth pursuing. Rather than take the line of breeding suggested above I might be tempted to take the "pink" approach. Deeper, redder pinks are available with longer cups than the orange/reds and the perianths may also be whiter.

Variations on the theme of orange/red trumpets on either yellow or white perianths would be the "rimmed" kinds as we have in Divisions 2 and 3. If we can add green eyes then the colour range is just about complete apart from an all orange or all red flower.

There is so much more scope for outstanding colour breaks and development in the trumpet sub-divisions compared with Divisions 2 and 3. I hope to make more crosses on the lines suggested in the hope of making some progress. Two, three or more generations may be required to achieve acceptable standards in these trumpets of the future. I would like to be around to witness the arrival of some such flowers whether raised by my own hand or by another.

DIVISION 2 — LARGE CUPPED DAFFODILS

2Y-Y

'Galway' and 'Ormeau' had a long reign as leaders in the all yellow classes. Suddenly with the emergence of 'Camelot' and 'Golden Aura', and now their progeny we have a bevy of real beauties but as yet no clear leader. 'Golden Joy', 'Golden Jewel', 'Golden Aura' and 'Amber Castle' have been crossed with such flowers as 'Joybell', 'Daydream', 'Arkle' and 'Barnsdale Wood' in the hope of producing something of a more

distinctive style in at least equal quality. I fancy a deep golden full sized flower after the style of 'Joybell' with its beautifully shaped petals and trumpet roll. 'Daydream' might give a really top quality self lemon flower. Pollen of 'Arkle' and 'Barnsdale Wood' might yield a trumpet of 'Golden Joy' quality and a step towards a red trumpet respectively. Such are my aims, this sub-division should be rewarding in the production of perfect seedlings for exhibition.

2Y-R

John Lea's success in perfecting the 2Y-R flowers is well known and daunting to any would-be follower. However, Y-R seedlings are essential for any Engleheart aspirants so they must be included in my breeding programme. I have planned my crosses to give a variety of well proportioned cup shapes and perianth shapes. Hopefully these variations will be combined with intensity of colour and sunproof qualities.

For narrow tubular or cylindrical cups, I have used 'Irish Light', 'Rathowen Flame', 'Torridon' and 'Loch Hope'. For a typical "cup" shape 'Shining Light' and 'Gettysburg' are included in the programme and 'Barnsdale Wood' and 'Bunclody' will hopefully give well proportioned bowl-shaped crowns. The Division 3 flowers 'Ulster Bank', 'Sabine Hay', 'Altruist', 'Achdart' and 'Montego' should oblige with button or saucer-shaped crowns. These crosses should also give Division 3 flowers, perhaps some with red flushed petals. Having neglected the yellow/reds in earlier years I have much leeway to make up.

There is room for something new in the rimmed Y-R class and I have been using Mr. Bloomer's 'April Magnet' and Mr. de Navarro's 'Gettysburg' in my crosses. Both have better perianth colour than 'Ringmaster' or 'Balalaika' and 'Gettysburg' has the deepest red rim I have ever seen in this class.

2W-Y

Looking through my records I find very few crosses have been made to yield 2W-Y flowers — only 'Aldergrove', 'Tudor Minstrel', 'Dunmurry', 'Irish Minstrel' and 'May Queen' appear and I have no really worthwhile seedlings from any of them. More promising seedlings have appeared by accident from 'Joybell' x 'Empress of Ireland' and 'Easter Moon' x 'Knowehead'. I have great faith in the progeny of 'Joybell' as future parents for a variety of types. Seedling D.490 from 'Easter Moon' x 'Knowehead' shows promise — it has a deep green eye, distinct style and should be a useful breeder. I hope to intercross seedlings from above crosses with the American raised 'Chapeau' (Evans) which I rate about the best I've seen of this type.

2W-R

The children of 'Kilworth' x 'Arbar' were lauded and eulogized when they hit the London Shows. They are still about the best around but their faults are as many as their merits. It is easy to list the improvements one would wish to make — greater consistency, whiter petals, earlier flowering, cleaner better bulb quality, resistance to sun scorch. It is not so easy to suggest a reliable line to take to achieve these improvements but I think this is one case where a continuation of line or in-breeding will only exacerbate and perpetuate the problems. I have not done much with this type but one or two promising flowers have come from pollen of 'Don Carlos' and 'Norval' on to some of the older Division 3 flowers such as 'Mahmoud', 'Merlin' and 'Omagh'. I await with interest

the results of crosses involving 'Royal Coachman', 'Ohio', 'Ulster Star', 'Irish Rover' and 'Doctor Hugh'. In future it might pay to almost start again by crossing 'Easter Moon' progeny with some of the best white/reds — perhaps 'Don Carlos' or 'Brahams'. Progress will be slow but I aim to try. 'Easter Moon' is such a prolific parent of quality flowers that I even plan to cross it with some of the best yellow/reds and several other unlikely mates — such sacrilege!

Nearly all the 2W-R flowers have bowl-shaped crowns and the variations listed for the yellow/reds are equally desirable here but much more difficult to attain. Apart from 'Buncrana' and 'Glorietta', which are pale in colour, there is little narrow cupped material to use for breeding — back to 'Easter Moon' again!

2W-P

From the beginning I have had a particular liking for the pink crowned flowers and a high proportion of my crosses involve pinks. 'Rose Royale', 'Dailmanach' and 'Fair Prospect' perhaps set the overall standard by which future flowers should be judged. Other flowers have particularly desirable qualities such as purer white perianths, purer, redder or violet-tinted pink, unfading colours and longer stems. Again I think a change of direction is needed to get away from constantly in breeding like with like. Some of the American flowers are really white and red/pink and though they may lack the smoothness and breadth of petal of our best, I hope they will transmit their good qualities without detriment to form. The influence of 'Easter Moon' is already evident through John Lea's 'Dailmanach' and by crossing it with 'Violetta' I have some interesting pale lilac toned flowers. Some Australian and New Zealand pinks have also been added to the "stud" for further mixing of the genes.

My newly named 'Fragrant Rose' is an interesting break. Not only has it very deep colour in a reddish copper narrow pink cup which seems resistant to sun but it has a most delightful fragrance which reminds me of the rose 'Super Star' ('Tropicana' in the U.S.A.). I cannot be sure of its parentage because of gross accidental mixing of seed in 1967 but the only possibility would seem to be 'Roseworthy Seedling' x 'Merlin'. To cross a pink would seem daft and I have no idea why the cross was made but if 'Fragrant Rose' is the result then similar crosses to get fragrance and small cupped pinks are worth trying. To date 'Jewel Song' has figured in all my "pink small cupped" efforts and on checking I find that it was crossed with 'Fragrant Rose' in 1973 before the latter was christened — only four plants resulted and if they flowered this year they passed unnoticed. 'Fragrant Rose' was crossed with two 'Merlin' seedlings last year, primarily towards intensifying fragrance but a good pink small cup would be an acceptable bonus or substitute.

There is great scope for improving the rimmed pinks — 'Rainbow', 'Drumboe', 'Infatuation' and 'Coral Ribbon' are all attractive in their different ways but they are not the ultimate. Mr. de Navarro's 'Tomphubil' and his seedling No. 108 figure most prominently in my hopes for improvements, the latter has an amazing raspberry red rim. My own 'Pismo Beach' is a new style rimmed variety which should prove useful for crossing with shorter cupped varieties such as the American raised 'Audubon'.

Still on "pinks" I confess to having made some crosses with 'Polonaise' which may yield split corona pinks with better perianths and deeper

colour. It certainly does give seedlings which can be seen a field length away and which can be relied upon to attract attention.

The yellow/pinks are now receiving more attention — the suggestion of such a colour combination involves very definite and opposing reactions. Mitsch's 'Milestone' was the first to be commercially available, simultaneously or shortly afterwards seedlings were appearing in New Zealand, Ballymena, Omagh and on Mitsch's doorstep, with the Murray Evans versions. It is difficult to visualise how far one wants to develop this colour combination. Does a maximus gold perianth with a cup colour like 'Violetta' stretch the imagination beyond the bounds of good taste? On the other hand a pink cup like 'Rose Royale' on a lemon perianth like 'Daydream' would seem to be most appealing. I have made quite a few crosses involving 'Milestone', my own 'Brindisi', 'Undertone' and 'Pink Mink' as well as some of the Tom Bloomer and Murray Evans seedlings. Probably 'Rima' and 'Rosedew' should be used because of the yellow in their background.

2W-W

I think, perhaps, some of the smoothest and best show flowers I have raised are in the white Division 2 class. All are in very early stages of development and have been raised from 'Easter Moon' crossed with 'Empress of Ireland', 'Knowehead', 'Stainless', 'White Star' and 'Silent Valley'. Good as some of these seedlings seem to be only time will tell if they can match or better such top quality varieties as 'Canisp', 'Broomhill', 'Ben Hee', 'Misty Glen' and 'Glenside'. From some of the above crosses, especially 'Easter Moon' x 'Silent Valley' I had hoped to add deeper, more pronounced green eyes. Unfortunately when the desired green eye appears it seems to be accompanied by a greenish cast which spoils the purity of whiteness in the perianth. Though this spoils white varieties it makes me wonder if it might be used to develop a green flower — if crossed with the greenest of the sulphur shades.

DIVISION 3 — SMALL CUPPED DAFFODILS

3Y-Y

'Advocat' and D.345 (to be registered as 'Mint Julep') are my only worthwhile all yellow Division 3 flowers. Both were raised accidentally from 'Woodland Prince' pollen when the aim was really for deeper coloured 3W-Y flowers. More recently some of Dr. Throckmorton's toned daffodils and Mr. W. A. Noton's 'Citronita' have been obtained as additional breeding stock. I hope Mr. John Blanchard's 'Ferndale' can also be added in the near future as it has probably the deepest colour of any in this class.

3Y-R

John Lea's 'Achduart', D. B. Milne's 'Altruist' and 'Sabine Hay' have recently appeared to provide unlimited potential for improvement and development in a class for so long dominated by the unreliable 'Chungking' and 'Doubtful'. Crossing this trio with 'Montego' and my own 'Ulster Bank' should give some promising results, including some so-called "all red" seedlings to which sun proof qualities must be added in future. Intercrossing the Y-R's of Divisions 2 and 3 should give seedlings in both divisions — an example of several cases where dual or triple purpose crosses can be made.

3W-Y

What is the best white/yellow small cup? Show records will indicate 'Aircastle' as the leader but it is often more yellow than its winning neighbour in the 3Y-Y class. 'Woodland Prince' has about the best colour but a tendency to be asymmetric. 'Syracuse' is perfect in form but lacking in colour and poise. By crossing these two and 'Crepello' some nice seedlings have been obtained but smoothness and good form seem to be accompanied by weak colour and vice versa. The ideal of pure white and deep gold is as elusive here as in Divisions 1 and 2.

3W-R

Since the early 1960's 'Rockall' has been almost unchallenged as leader of its class. Coming from that prolific 'Kilworth' x 'Arbar' cross it was such a complete contrast in style from its predecessors 'Matapan' and 'Mahmoud' that it was once aptly described as a "galloping interloper" in the 3W-R division. My preference is for a rounder, broader petalled flower and it was with this in mind that I went back to 'Mahmoud' x 'Enniskillen' and crossed them with 'Don Carlos' which resulted in three flowers of some promise, namely 'Doctor Hugh', 'Red Rooster' and 'Dunskey'. 'Merlin' x 'Avenger' has also given a seedling of interest — D.109 — durable and consistent flower of 'Rockall' colouring but much rounder form. Further crosses have been made involving 'Rockall' and several quite promising seedlings have been selected for further trial. In the meantime I regard 'Doctor Hugh' and 'Red Rooster' as fairly reasonable improvements in purity of whiteness, breadth of petal and attractiveness.

'Merlin' still sets the standard by which all rimmed varieties must be judged. Other good ones provide variations in form but few have such pure white perianths or such clearly defined rim colour. 'Merlin' is therefore the obvious parent but the selection of pollen may as well be left to the bees. To cross deliberately for increased size, which is a doubtfully desirable aim, is likely to result in a loss of whiteness. From one open pollinated pod of 'Merlin' yielding three seeds I got 'Mount Angel', a large pure white 3W-YYR, which already has a good show record; 'Ringway' 3W-YYR of very distinct triangular form with an extremely sharply defined deep red rim and 'Narya' 3Y-YYR, a small jewel smooth flower. I have a high regard for 'Merlin' as a breeder and crosses should not be confined to its own class — remember it is the most probable parent of 'Fragrant Rose' 2W-GPP. So it might be worth crossing with pinks. Good quality "rims" are relatively easy to raise, attention needs to be paid to bulb quality and sun resistance in selection of those for naming. Some of Sir Frank Harrison's have lovely green eyes and delicate orange rims combined with good bulbs and growth habits — unfortunately most are very late flowering, but for their other qualities they should be used for breeding. My aims in this class are not clearly defined in my own mind but they are so attractive that I keep making crosses in the hope of adding further variety and refinement to an already varied and refined lot. There is, however, room for much improvement in Division 2 versions of rimmed varieties and this improvement is likely to come from the 3's.

3W-W

'Verona' is a lovely flower and has had about as long a run at the top as 'Rockall' in its class but it is not very white. My aim here is to breed earlier flowers with really deep green eyes and of poeticus whiteness. I have used 'Verona', 'Monksilver', 'Cool Crystal' and 'Dallas' as well as some of

my own seedlings but it is difficult to imagine earlier flowers from such parentage — and alternatives are not obvious. Division 2 'Stainless' and 'Easter Moon' are possible, but two generations may be required — perhaps 'Trouville', an almost white 2W-Y from 'Verona' x 'Stainless' will provide the key to earlier flowers in this class. Whatever the flowering season an amalgam of the best qualities of the quartette of 3W-W's mentioned would be a welcome find in my seedling beds.

DIVISION 4 — DOUBLE DAFFODILS

So much had been done with doubles at Waterford that there seemed little point in pursuing further except in so far as new colours were concerned. Accordingly my efforts were devoted to trying to raise pink doubles. I purchased a Richardson seedling R.3509 ('Falaise' x 'Debutante') in which I thought I saw a hint of pink. The flower proved fertile and was crossed with the highly coloured 'Polonaise' which I thought might aid doubling because of its deeply fluted and wide mouthed large cup. From this cross I was very lucky to get 'Pink Pageant' and 'Pink Paradise', both of which are fertile. There is a further little double seedling from this cross which has distinct lilac tones — perhaps even more definite than 'Lilac Charm'. I have made many "pink doubles" crosses using these and some of Murray Evans varieties and seedlings which are more red/pink and white but not so well formed. I await the results of these crosses with keen anticipation. Depth and clarity of colour, purity of whiteness and that lilac tone are pursuits for the future.

Another colour break worth pursuing in doubles is all orange or all red. I think the Rev. Broadhurst once showed a flushed orange seedling in London and my own 'Smokey Bear' from 'Papua' x 'Vagabond' has a distinct orange flush in the outer major petals and petaloids. It is fertile and has been crossed with 'Sabine Hay' and 'Altruist' in the hope of intensifying the colour.

Though 'Acropolis' flower quality is hard to fault the bulb is poor — 'Monterrico' x 'Doctor Hugh' is my hope for improvement. 'Gay Song' sometimes produces seed and it should open the way to earlier, more vigorous and purer white doubles. This is work for the future.

In the Y-R doubles David Lloyd's 'Beauvallon' is so good that it seems to have skipped a generation — alas, it is susceptible to various viruses. Hopefully the stock can be revived to health, if not, then a new 'mould' will have to be formed by crossing 'Tahiti', 'Hawaii' and 'Tonga' where possible with deep coloured 2Y-R flowers such as 'Barnsdale Wood'.

DIVISIONS 5 — 9

In these divisions my interests have been confined to 6 and 9, the cyclamineus and the poeticus.

In Division 6 my interest was stimulated by the accidental arrival of 'Lilac Charm' and 'Lavender Lass'. These and Mrs. Reade's 'Foundling' have been intercrossed and several other likely and unlikely varieties used in attempting to increase the range and variety of pink cyclamineus hybrids. Some of the resultant seedlings are interesting, most are pink cupped, some with rims and there are two or three pure whites from 'Stainless' x 'Foundling'. 'Richhill' x 'Foundling' yielded some indeterminate coloured flowers for future breeding of Y-R, W-R, W-P or Y-P cyclamineus types — one has an orange rim.

I even wonder about raising a double cyclamineus following the appearance of a little yellow seedling with reflexed perianth and

waisted $\frac{3}{4}$ length cup filled with smaller petaloids similar to old 'Van Sion'. It was strangely attractive and was marked for further trial. It has given me the idea of crossing that lilac toned double with 'Lilac Charm' and possibly other cyclamineus x double crosses — which may result in classification difficulties. Developments in Division 6 should be exciting in the next 10-20 years.

Though I have made a few crosses in Division 9 the old classification requirement whereby both parents had to be of the same division seriously restricted progress. Even yet "distinguishing characteristics predominant" precludes any really dramatic development. The purists may shun the idea but I feel there may be room for some progress by crossing some of the fragrant green eyed rimmed varieties from Division 3 with accepted poets. Earlier poets are also required so perhaps 'Actaea' should be brought back for breeding purposes — it would also add vigour and size. Sir Frank Harrison's 'Fairmile', 'Fairgreen' and 'Lancaster'; Murray Evans' 'Minx' and 'Minikin' as well as 'Merlin' and 'Silent Cheer' could all be useful parents which might produce lovely seedlings which would give the classification purists some difficulty.

CONCLUSION

These remarks outline my basic thoughts and future aims in daffodil breeding. I fully realise that only a very small fraction of these aims can possibly be attempted let alone being achieved. The range is far too wide for any one person, never mind a part time hobbyist like myself. Nevertheless crosses have been made with many of these developments in mind and, with a bit of luck something good enough to maintain interest should emerge. Greater success might be achieved by specialising in developing certain types but I'm afraid I do not have the patience or dedication to pursue a certain line through several generations.

Regardless of the success or otherwise of my hybridising efforts I think it is important to avoid taking it all too seriously. Daffodil growing, exhibition, and breeding should give pleasure and enjoyment to those involved and to the public who happen to see the displays and new developments. It would, undoubtedly, be tremendously satisfying to raise a flower which might have the impact of old 'King Alfred' but, like many raisers I expect I will have to be content with more modest and ephemeral successes.

Though I may never see many of the daffodils of my fancy in my own seedling beds, the near misses will perhaps provide a few stepping stones and help pave the way to their eventual appearance. In any case the fun is in trying and the fellowship of the daffodil fraternity throughout the world make all the work worthwhile.

I end with an anonymous quotation which applies equally to life and to daffodil breeding:

"All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today."

So let it be! We must wait and see.

I hope these notes, which have become more protracted than first intended, will be of some use for your purpose. If not, then, I know I have found the exercise of value in that it has helped clarify some of my own thoughts with regard to my future breeding programme.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN S. DUNCAN

The Irish Show Season 1981

by W. J. TOAL

Due to the vagaries of our uncertain Irish climate it would seem as if there is no such thing as a normal daffodil season, and this year was no exception. Following an abnormally wet autumn and winter it was not until April was well advanced that we had any sign of spring-like weather and the way the daffodils responded to this sunny spell seemed nothing short of miraculous. Unfortunately it was short lived and before the month had ended we were thrust into arctic-like conditions of blizzard like ferocity. It says much for the enthusiasm of our exhibitors that despite the many vicissitudes that they had to contend with they managed to fill the Show benches with so many flowers of excellent quality.

This was very evident at the Bangor Show held on 11th April and here Mr. S. Bankhead won the principal class for twelve single blooms with a collection which included very good blooms of 'Broomhill', 'Loch Stac', 'Unique' and 'Golden Joy'. The six bloom class was won by Mr. R. Sterling with a very even group of flowers which included outstandingly good blooms of 'Rockall', 'Ulster Bank' and 'White Empress'. After his absence from the show scene last year through illness how good it was to see "Bob" making a triumphant return and showing fine specimens of 'Derg Valley', 'Newcastle', 'Silent Valley', 'Golden Jewel', 'Unique' and a very bright eyed Ballydorn seedling '74/3-YYR'. He won several single bloom classes including the "Best Bloom in the Show" with Seedling 3W-GWW. To these successes he added the Amateur Championship with a very even and well staged group which included 'Derg Valley', 'Doctor Hugh', 'Violetta', 'Crater', 'Woodland Beauty' and 'Golden Aura'. This was by no means an easy win for Mr. W. Harper was in close contention with an excellent group of well grown flowers of 'Empress of Ireland', 'Newcastle', 'Strines', 'Tanera', 'Rameses' and 'Woodland Prince'. Showing outstandingly good flowers of 'Empress of Ireland', Mr. Harper easily won the Three bloom, Division 1 class, while his 'Rameses' just pipped 'Avenger' shown by Mr. Sterling to take the Three bloom, Division 2 class. In the Single bloom classes Mr. Bankhead had winners with 'Loch Stac', 'Modest Maiden' and a very smooth 'Broomhill' which was later to prove Reserve "Best Bloom in Show". Mr. J. Carlisle had winners with 'Tudor Minstrel', 'Norval', 'Charter', 'Sweet Pepper', 'Joybell' and a very smooth 'Golden Aura' type seedling.

In the Intermediate classes, the honours were well dispersed between Mr. Todd showing 'Banbridge' and 'Empress of Ireland', Miss T. Bankhead showing 'Golden Aura', 'Newcastle', 'Tudor Minstrel', 'Broomhill', 'Sweetness', 'Charity May' and 'Violetta'; Mr. O'Brien showing 'Avenger', 'Verona' and 'Tahiti'; and Mrs. Jones showing a Division 1 Ballydorn seedling which was Best Bloom in this section. Mrs. Jones also won the principle collection class with good blooms of 'Ringmaster', 'Kimmeridge', 'Hotspur', 'Empress of Ireland', 'Festivity' and 'Loch Stac'.

In the Novice section the Best Bloom award was won by Mrs. Reynolds for a nice smooth flower of 'Park Springs' while the principal prize-winner in the other classes was Mr. W. Hall who had very good flowers of 'Woodland Star', 'Golden Sovereign', 'Downpatrick' and 'Empress of Ireland'. How rapidly this exhibitor is improving both in the presentation and quality of his flowers.

Gilnahirk, Dundonald and Cregagh Societies Show was held in the ideal surroundings of Tullycarnet Park on 18th and 19th April. The principal class for twelve single blooms was won by Mr. Bertie Eakins whose evenly matched group included very good flowers of 'Viking', 'Bunclody', 'Golden Aura', 'Empress of Ireland', 'Loch Lundie' and 'Verona'. The second prize group of Mr. J. Bownass included very good flowers of 'Merlin' and 'Daydream'.

The Daffodil Group Amateur Championship Group of Six Single blooms was won by Mr. Eakins whose best flowers were 'Rockall', 'Verona', 'Empress of Ireland' and a very smooth bloom of 'Viking' which captured the award for the "Best Bloom in Show". The Reserve Best bloom in Show going to Mr. G. Andrews for a very good bloom of 'Purbeck'. This class was closely contested and Mr. Sterling had a very creditable second prize group which included 'White Star', 'Shining Light', 'Altruist' and 'Pismo Beach'. In the Single Bloom classes Mr. Sterling had winners with 'Derg Valley', 'Silent Valley', 'Golden Jewel', 'Don Carlos', 'Leonora' and 'Nymphette'. Mr. Eakin had worthy winners in 'Loch Hope', 'Achduart' and 'Misty Glen'. A very smooth 'Downpatrick' proved a winner for Mr. Todd who also won with good flowers of 'Cantabile', 'Suzy' and a very neat rim-edged Ballydorn seedling. 'Acropolis' and 'Passionale' won Three bloom classes for Mr. Bownass, while his 'Daydream' was good enough to win in the Single bloom class. Mr. Bankhead had winners with 'Dinkie' and 'Aircastle', while Mr. Andrews won a closely contested class with 'Monterrico'. In the Novice section Mr. S. Martin had winners with 'Gold Flame', 'Strines', 'Stainless', 'Daydream', 'Modest Maiden' and an unnamed yellow trumpet which was good enough to beat 'Strathkanaird' shown by Miss R. Bownass. However, Miss Bownass had worthy winners in 'Niveth', 'Acropolis', 'Downpatrick' and 'Woodland Star' which captured the award for Best Bloom in the Novice Section.

Enniskillen Show was held on the same date and I am indebted to Mr. William Dukelow for his report. This year the Enniskillen Show was dominated by outside competitors. Although the standard of blooms was perhaps below par, there were notable exceptions. Mr. M. Ward from Dublin collected the Northern Bank Cup for highest points in the open section. His best blooms were 'Irish Minstrel', 'Gay Song', 'Rainbow' and Seedling W70-26-1. He also won the Malone Cup for the Best Bloom which was 'Doctor Hugh'. 'Roseate Tern' which was Mr. Brian Duncan's only entry was reserve Best Bloom. Mr. W. Harper from Omagh also figured prominently in the open section with good blooms of 'Stainless' and 'Aircastle'.

Mr. Martin made the trip from Dublin with some success, winning with 'Golden Aura', while Mr. Carlisle scored with a 'Lemonade' seedling and Mr. Newport with a good 'Tobernaven'. Mr. Ward also won the R.U.C. Cup for six blooms Irish raised with 'Olympic Gold', 'Merlin', 'Verona', 'Rainbow', 'Prince Royal' and 'Doctor Hugh'.

The Intermediate section proved to be a close two-horse race between Mr. S. Dukelow and Mr. F. White, both from Omagh. Mr. Dukelow had good blooms of 'Rathowen Gold', 'Newcastle', 'Golden Aura' and 'Vernie', while Mr. White had good blooms of 'Richhill' and 'Jewel Song'. In this section the Cup for the highest points was won by Mr. Dukelow.

In the Novice section Mr. G. Marsden had winners with 'Altruist' and 'Passionale' and also captured the Cup for the highest points in the section, while Mr. J. Ennis had winners with 'Shining Light' and 'Rippling Waters'.

The Amateur Championship sponsored by the N.I.D.G. was won by Mr. M. Ward showing a well-balanced group of flowers consisting of 'Olympic Gold', 'Air Marshal', 'Snowcrest', 'Merlin', 'Don Carlos' and Seedling C/111/.

This year the Championship of Ireland Show was artistically staged by the Portadown Horticultural Society on 25th April. A couple of days prior to the show the weather turned really nasty with bitterly cold winds accompanied by rain, hail and snow. Getting the flowers to the hall for staging on Friday night was a hazardous occupation for outside blizzard-like conditions prevailed. However, before the Show opened on Saturday the weather was much improved and despite the bad weather the benches were surprisingly well filled.

The Championship Class, which called for twelve single blooms, was won by Mr. Brian Duncan who staged an exceptionally fine group consisting of 'High Society', 'Mount Angel', 'Ulster Bank', 'Doctor Hugh', 'Valinor' and several seedlings among which was No. 697, an immaculate trumpet whose amber pink cup is enhanced by a white halo at the base — a most exciting new colour break and an entrancing flower. Carncairn provided the second prize collection with pleasing flowers of 'Auchduart', 'Bunclody', 'Saturn', 'Rainbow' and 'Loughinmore', while Mr. Eakin's third prize collection included 'Verona', 'White Star', 'Dailmanach', a very good 'Galahad' and a 'Catistock' which unfortunately had a badly misplaced petal.

In the Class for American-raised varieties Carncairn included 'Air Castle' and 'Cool Crystal' in their winning lot, while Rathowen took second prize with a collection which included 'Bit of Gold' and 'Cool Crystal'.

The Royal Mail Trophy for Ulster-raised varieties was won by Rathowen with a well-balanced group which included 'Mount Angel' and Seedlings 279, 362 and 425. Carncairn provided the second prize group which included 'Loughanmore' and 'Tynan', which was inclined to show white spots on the rim of the cup. Ballydorn occupied third place with 'Jamestown', 'Lancaster' and a pleasing 'Viking' seedling.

The Amateur Championship Class was won by Mr. M. Ward of Dublin, showing among others good flowers of 'Olympic Gold', 'Camelot' and 'Gransha', while Mr. Harper included a very good 'Rockall' and 'Daydream' in the second prize lot. Third prize went to Mr. Bownass with a very creditable group which included 'Spanish Gold', 'Orion' and 'Daydream'.

In the Collection class for six blooms Rathowen led the way with excellent blooms of 'Valinor', 'Pipe Major', 'Pismo Beach' and 'Polar Imp', while they also won several of the Three bloom classes with excellent example of 'Spanish Gold', 'Bunclody', 'Irish Rover', 'Rosete Tern' and 'Unique', Mr. Eakin winning with 'Ashmore', 'Merlin' and 'Arish Mell'.

Rathowen won most the Single Bloom classes showing 'Cyros', 'White Star', 'Pipe Major', 'Gettysburg', 'Ulster Star', 'Lysander', 'Bit of Gold', 'Inverpolly', 'Ulster Bank', 'Advocat', 'Aircastle' and 'Polar Imp', while Mr. Bownass won a very strong class with an excellent 'Merlin'.

The Portadown Society deserves and gets our thanks and appreciation for their hospitality to the judges and guests prior to the judging. It was very much appreciated.

This year the Ballymena Society changed their Show to Ballee School and this provided an ideal venue with ample space and good parking facilities readily available.

The Amateur Championship Class was won by Mr. S. Bankhead with a well-balanced group of flowers which included 'Cool Crystal', 'Camelot', 'Pink Pageant', 'Coral Ribbon' and an exceptionally smooth 'Bunclody'. Mr. Ward, showing among others, 'Woodland Star', 'Unique' and 'Camelot', took the second prize. In the Three bloom classes Rathowen had winners with 'White Star', 'Tristram', 'Fairgreen', 'Unique' and 'Valinor', while Carncairn scored with 'Cool Crystal' and a very bright W-GYR seedling 25/67. Ballydorn won with a very neat 'Cantabile' seedling.

In the principal class for Twelve single blooms Rathowen led with a choice group which included 'White Star', 'Inverpolly', 'Woodland Star', 'Spring Magic' and 'Ulster Bank', which but for an almost indiscernible cut petal must have been well in the running for Best Bloom in Show. Also included in the group were seedlings D.540, D.604 and the fascinating D.697. Carncairn, featuring among others 'Cool Crystal' and 'Aircastle', took second place and in what excellent condition Carncairn seems to produce these American-raised varieties.

In the Single Bloom classes Rathowen provided most of the winners with 'Pipe Major', 'April Magnet', 'Bit of Gold', 'Ramada', 'Lilac Charm' and seedlings D.240 and D.279 well to the forefront. Carncairn relied for their winners on 'Golden Aura', seedling 106/60, 'Creme de Menthe', 'Auchduart' which was Best Bloom in Show, 'Gin and Lime' and the very white 'Sabrewing'. Ballydorn had winners with 'Faraway' and a most attractive seedling No. 77 W-GWY, a cool and lovely flower of sturdy circular build.

In the Intermediate Classes Miss Tracey Bankhead continued her winning way with excellent flowers of 'Silent Cheer', 'Gay Song' and a small but very neat little seedling under No. 325. Mr. Kerr was the principal winner in the Novice classes capturing the Best Bloom in the Novice section with a good bloom of 'Aircastle'.

Although it was not a winner a flower which attracted me very much was a Rathowen seedling No. 536. A real wild rose pink which I could only fault for its rather pointed petals, but otherwise a most attractive and satisfying flower.

Omagh Show held on 2nd May brought the show season to a close and by this time the flowers were rapidly fading and it must have tested the skill of exhibitors to find sufficiently fresh flowers to fulfil their entries, but somehow they managed to do it for the benches were well filled with a very colourful display of excellent quality flowers.

In the Amateur Championship Group the honours went to Mr. M. Ward whose outstanding flowers were 'Canisp', 'Unique' and 'Merlin', while featuring in Mr. W. Harper's second prize group were 'Woodland Star', 'Stainless' and 'Golden Aura'.

In the premier class for the Dr. Hugh Watson Memorial Trophy which calls for twelve single blooms, the honours were deservedly won by Rathowen Daffodils with a magnificent collection of blooms. When judging was finally completed this group was festooned with Special Award Cards — Best Bloom Division 1 and also Best Bloom in Show for the very unique seedling D.697 and also Best Bloom Division 2 for D.716, a very imposing 2W-YOO. These supported by 'Fragrant Rose', 'Roseate Tern', 'Ulster Bank', seedling No. 554 and 'Pipe Major' formed a most imposing group. The latter a medium-sized red and yellow flower appeared frequently on the show scene this year in particularly good form. Carncairn provided the second prize lot in this class and they included 'Chiloquin', 'Fairgreen', 'Creme de Menthe' and seedling 14/11/14 which was selected as Best Bloom in Division 3 in the Open Classes.

Rathowen was again the winner for the Class for American-raised varieties with 'Eland', 'Verdin', 'Dickcissel', 'Stratosphere' and 'Bunting', a very dainty lot of dwarfs well able to hold their own among the giants. The Evelyn Bell Memorial Trophy also found its way to Rathowen enabling them to complete a clean sweep of the main trophy awards. In the smaller collection classes honours were divided between Rathowen and Carncairn, the former making effective use of 'Slieveboy', 'Fragrant Rose', 'Pink Pageant', 'Pismo Beach', 'Spanish Gold', 'Spring Magic' and 'Unique', while Carncairn had wins with 'Sea Green' and seedlings, one of which, No. 4/11/64 W-GYR, was a real eye-catcher.

In the Single Bloom Classes Ballydorn secured the top awards with 'Top of the Hill', seedlings No. 77 3W-GYO and a 'Cantabile' x 'Cushendall' cross, while Carncairn had winners with 'Fairgreen', seedling pale sulphur yellow trumpet No. 60/5/30, a 'Daydream' type seedling No. 5/8/69. Mr. Dukelow produced 'Stratosphere' in excellent condition to win the Division 7 class, otherwise it was Rathowen all the way and some of their most outstanding flowers were 'Fortitude', 'Pipe Major', 'Spring Magic', 'Inverpoll', 'Sea Dream', 'Unique', 'Pismo Beach' and seedlings No. 240, 604 with a very red cup, and 385, though not a winner, was a very large and very white Division 2 W-W with a rather wide cup. The Intermediate and Novice classes were well supported and Mr. F. White secured the Award for the Best Flower in the former section with a nice bloom of 'Fiorella', while Mrs. T. Bruce captured a similar award in the Novice section for 'White Sprite'.

Thus ended the main Show season, but although we did not know it then the most enjoyable fixture of the year was still to come and this was what should have been the so-called Late Show at Ballydorn on 10th May.

Unfortunately the weather was atrocious with gale-force winds and heavy rain, but this did not damp the warmth of the welcome that waited those who braved the elements to visit Sir Frank and Lady Harrison in their lovely home overlooking the storm-tossed waters of Strangford Lough.

There was quite a quantity of flowers on display, for everyone seemed to bring something along and arrange them in the spacious bulb shed. There was no thought of making it a competitive fixture. The enthusiasts brought along their flowers for themselves and others to discuss and admire. It was a friendly get-together to say farewell to another daffodil season and how well it succeeded.

After the merits and demerits of the many flowers on view were discussed the party hastened to the warmth of the house to partake a sumptuous tea, so generously provided by Sir Frank and Lady Harrison, and how it was enjoyed in the comfort of their delightful home. To them our sincere thanks and appreciation for one of the most enjoyable afternoons that we ever spent among the daffodils.

One of the memories that I retain is that of a vase of little elphin flowers put up by Sir Frank, with the greenest of green eyes and frosty white perianths. Though not highly coloured these little things that Sir Frank is producing are as brilliant as jewels nestling in the snow.

The time passed quickly in such pleasant company and eventually we said farewell to the Daffodil season and to Sir Frank and Lady Harrison and the happy memories of our visit to Ballydorn will remain with us for a long time.

July, 1981

Letter from America

by DR. JOHN REED

An unexpected last minute medical meeting drastically changed my 1981 daffodil season. I had planned to attend the National A.D.S. Show in late March, but a trip to my company's headquarters in Irvine, California in early March, altered my plans. A few phone calls to California indicated that a very early season was in progress and that by show time most of the bloom season would be over. But if I extended my early trip, I could visit several friends at peak bloom. What luck!

My trip took me to Irvine, California, only ten miles from the site of the 1981 A.D.S. Show and only a mile from Dr. Koopowitz's daffodils. During the first week, I managed to meet with Dr. Koopowitz and view his seedlings several times at the university arboretum. Harold was saving a refrigerated seedling just for me to see. It was obviously the best early reverse bi-colour daffodil I'd ever seen. It is now called 'Fronrunner' 2Y-W.

A series of cyclaminus seedlings flowered there during my stay. They ranged from white to lemon to reverses and all displayed grace and quality. It was unusual to see fat seed pods, literally bursting open on poetaz seedlings, I think from 'Paperwhite' x 'Accent'. Harold took the falling seeds in stride but I was awe struck. Perhaps the most unique thing about Harold's seedlings are the manner in which they are grown. Water is so scarce in this arid southern California climate, that Harold plants his daffodils in trenches. Yet, my week in Irvine was very wet to say the least. The small plane that took me from L.A. to Irvine leaked heavily, my hotel's lobby flooded a couple of times, and Harold's trenches had standing water in them at times. So different from my climate in Northern Indiana.

Just as the meeting ended, the rainy weather changed to mild, warm and clear. I caught my plane to Sacramento without getting drenched and eagerly awaiting meeting Sid Dubose. It had been four years since

I'd met Sid, so the brightly coloured daffodil in his hat band was a welcomed sight in the crowded airport lobby. Sid's flowers were at peak bloom. Such a sight. Besides large stocks of named daffodils, rows of seedlings were eagerly viewed. Pink daffodils are Sid's specialty and only the best have been used in his breeding which made choices very difficult. A seedling from 'Accent' x 'My Word' was especially well-formed and brightly coloured. A rather unique daffodil, an 8W-P from N.T. compressus and 'Portal' (Mitsch) 2W-P had two flowers per stem. It is not the ultimate but rather a grand beginning. Some new down under daffodils were out and 'Tia' (Jackson) 3Y-R obviously liked its new home with tall stems and very flat smooth petals. 'Tagent' (Mitsch) 2W-P and 'Cordial' (Evans) 2W-P were among the best of the older pinks that obviously found Sid's garden to their liking. In my short stay several crosses were made, a sunburn developed, and hopefully some useful breeding material for Sid's future crosses.

Besides the pinks, a series of yellow-red daffodils were out. All the product of Ben Hager's efforts to obtain a large, well-coloured Y-R and O-R daffodil. With another generation we may see Ben's dream flower materialize. I had given some thought to naming such a daffodil after Ben, someday, but was surprised to see Barbara Abel Smith had beaten me to this. 'Uncle Ben' is now the name of her G7/32 seedling. I might say that after four year of adjusting to my climate, 'Uncle Ben' gave its best ever blooms this year, having the deepest petal colour I've ever seen in a trumpet daffodil. Almost a self golden-orange. It was worth waiting so long to see such excellent colour and reasonable form in an orange trumpet daffodil. Crossed with 'Gold Convention' (Lea) 1Y-Y I may have improved it a bit. Look me up in five years.

A short trip to Bonnie Bowers place in Volcano, California was next. The Bowers had just moved into their mountain home and the daffodils were getting their first taste of this higher climate. They seemed to enjoy their new home, as long as the deer were kept out. It was interesting to note that 'Monal' (Mitsch) 2Y-R had already faded out as other early daffodils were just opening. 'Monal' has been the earliest standard 2R daffodil for me since its second season when it flowered even before N. Cyclaminus. Bonnie's husband, Ken, treated us to a visit to the old historic mining town of Volcano and some very large, tasty ice cream sundaes at the local ice cream parlour.

Time passed quickly and I was off on another plane to Santa Barbara where I drove on to visit the Roeses in Santa Maria. Late mid-season was on and several named varieties as well as seedlings were inspected closely. 'Golden Ranger' (Richardson) 2Y-Y was large, well-formed, and very vigorous as were Bill's own 'La Paloma' 3W-GYR and several 2Y-R Richardson seedling stocks. Perhaps the most intriguing seedling was a wonderfully coloured 2W-P (red) from 'Easter Moon' x 'Rose Caprice'. We will hear more about this one. I knew that Bill raised pigeons and parrots but was surprised to see a pair of ducks running around his backyard. It seems that they are very good at eating a pesty slug that can damage the daffodils. Fine friends to have around!

Back to Irvine the hard way, this time by auto. I managed to drive through Los Angeles at rush hour and while this was not exactly a pleasure trip, it was a bit more pleasant than my previous trips on the Dan Ryan Expressway in Chicago. An overnight stay with Dr. Koopowitz, a last minute early trip to the arborotum and I was off again back to

Indiana. Nothing was in bloom when I left home and N. cyclaminus was barely out on my return. It was unusually dry and warm for mid-March. An early melt-off from a small snowfall had worried me about an early season which never did materialize. Rains by the following weekend finally brought out the early daffodils. 'Bobolink' (Mitsch) 2W-GYO and 'Titmouse' (Link) 2W-YYO were especially well-coloured and showed good increase. 'My Word' (Murray) 2W-P continues to improve after four years from Australia, giving larger flowers and more colour. All blooms were pollinated with early pollen from California.

As the newer Daffodils opened I was really taken by the first blooms of 'Spritely' (Piper) 2W-P. It was just as Mr. Piper had described and had the most hauntingly beautiful shade of pink colour I've ever seen, apparently inherited from 'Dear Me' 2W-P. 'Heather Joy' (Phillips) 1Y-Y was a welcomed first bloom; just like an all-yellow 'Empress of Ireland'. Alas, it was unable to last for the Dayton show and it is eagerly waited for again next year.

'Chamois' (Mitsch) 2O-O was the daffodil of the year for me. Nothing that dark nor large has ever been seen in this climate before, and it's quite early too. Alas, the flower is coarse and bleaches in the sun but is a stunning colour on opening.

Older 'Erirose' (Mitsch) 2W-P and 'Gypsy' (Richardson) 2Y-R were very colourful and should be grown in everyone's garden, especially 'Gypsy'. It continues to be my choice for the top early garden daffodil. I wish it was another, but it has everything else needed for the garden: colour, height and durability. 'Gypsy' lasted over two weeks for me.

As mid-season approached, it became almost impossible to keep up with the parade of blooms. The fact that my daffodils have been grown across town about a half hour away from me and my seedlings has not helped either. Some blooms were picked for the up coming Dayton Show and others pollinated. 'Glenfarclas' (Lea) 1Y-O have improved colour and form and set a few seeds too. It has been a very vigorous increaser here. 'Midas Touch' (Bloomer) 1Y-Y stunted from last year's dry spring gave its best ever bloom and went into the refrigerator for the Quinn. 'Creagh Dubh' 2O-O cast a reddish sheen into its petals this year, obviously getting settled into its new home. 'Fireraiser' (Wottom) 2O-O was smaller than I expected but first year blooms do this for me quite often. The petal colour was good on opening and lasted. Not as intense as seen in Columbus, Ohio in 1978, but a good beginning, especially when one realizes that 'Creagh Dubh' had no petal colour other than yellow last year. 'Torridon' 2Y-R and 'Loch Hope' 2Y-R both of John Lea's raising are undoubtedly the best show flowers in this division that I have grown and are quite consistent. 'Loch Hope' gave its first seeds for me and this quite excited me after seeing seedling slides of Brogden's newest beauties raised from it. Peter Ramsey in "The Daffodil Journal" described one of them as looking like it was made from red and yellow plastic because of the smoothness and substance — wow! I was pleased to learn that 'Loch Hope' had again won Best on Show in London this year. While not as smooth, 'Everglaze' 2Y-R from New Zealand had the deepest, sun-resistant cup colour of any daffodil this year. The judges liked it at Dayton, as it got a blue ribbon for its class. (Only one 'Loch Hope' was picked, for the Quinn, as hybridizing comes before showing.)

Dave Karnstedt visited for several days to renew his "flower power". We had ideal weather and picked flowers till I ran out of refrigerator space and pollinated others. With over 2,700 varieties of daffodils grown in different stages of acclimatization and quantities, one can quickly become "flower struck". My planting had more than doubled since Dave last visited with an acre to view. At least this "Gold Fever" is only seasonal. Dave seemed to favour 'Rainbow' (Richardson) 2W-P as he made several crosses with it. A selection of Evans Q20, 'Arctic Gold' x 'Brer Fox' received Dave's praise. Crossed with 'Glenfarclas', its seeds are now ready to plant.

We packed seven insulated boxes of daffodils and after a late Friday supper, took off for Dayton, Ohio. Driving all night, we reached Dayton about 6.00 a.m. Time for some breakfast and then on to staging blooms. This was only my second effort at showing, as my schooling and now medical practice have limited the time available. So I was pleased with our efforts. The flowers were of higher quality than I'd realized, but their size was really down this year because of the dry spring last year. But still they were equal to, or larger than all the flowers I saw except the Haven's exhibit from Oregon. Now those were **big** flowers! We won the Quinn Medal as well as the A. D. S. White Ribbon for Dave's three perfect stems of 'Ariel' (Richardson) and the A. D. S. Silver for most blues. The Quinn was highly contested with Handy Hatfield and it must have taken the judges a half an hour to decide in our favour. The Quinn award really made the trip worthwhile, especially as we had then been up 36 hours without sleep. Handy did not do so badly, as his 'Gold Convention' (Lea) 1Y-Y won Best in Show for him.

Among the better, single-bloom flowers we took were the following: 'Pink Delight' (Fairbain) 1W-P, apparently well acclimated after four years from Australia now. Its substance was amazing this year. 'Bon Rose' 1W-P had improved and took second. 1W-Y 'Bravoure' (Van Der Wereld) was by far the best 1W-Y grew this year. It needs more contrast and to this point its pollen has been used liberally. 2Y-Y 'Golden Aura' (Richardson) was probably the best flower. If 'Strike' 2Y-Y (Farmer) can get just a little larger, it will probably surpass the former. 'Ogensan Wally' (Dettman) 2W-O gave very nice flowers. So one was taken just to show it off but amazingly (to me) it won its class beating my not so well coloured (this year) but large 'Ruhb Mor' (Lea) 2W-R. 2W-Y 'Flash Affair' (Glover) continues to improve and was a shoulder above all the others in its class. Some of the newer Jackson pinks are still developing, having only been here two years and were not yet up to exactly show standards. But I'm sure that they will be in another year or two, especially when they get moved to their new soil at Oakwood Farm. One of them 'Vivacious' 2W-P was my top trumpet formed pink this year. But alas, a small hole from a well fed insect kept it at home.

Some older daffodils did themselves proud, especially 'Bizerta' (Richardson) 2W-Y and 'Arbar' (Richardson) 2W-O in the three-bloom class. 'Decoy' (Mitsch) 2W-P (red) gave two lovely flowers in its first season here, opening with the best shade of red-pink yet seen in this climate. It was quite fertile too. 'Hicol' 2Y-P (Bell) gave the strongest colour contrast in its division, resembling its parent 'Red Conquest', but was more highly coloured and hardly smooth enough for show.

Many new cyclamineus hybrids showed their faces for the first time with 'Swallow' (Mitsch) 6Y-W giving the best reserve colour and smooth-

ness, but later 'Wheater' (Mitsch) 6Y-W was fertile and had lots of pollen. Brian Duncan's pink cyclamineus hybrids bloomed later, as all first year Irish daffodils do here in their first year. All were well-coloured and graceful, but I still prefer the longer waisted trumpet shape of 'Carib' (Mitsch) 6W-P and 'Cotinga' (Mitsch) 6W-P. Even 'Foundling' (Carncairn) 6W-P and shy 'Kelpie' (Richardson) 6W-P showed their best faces ever and set seed for the first time too. 'Mitzzy' (Mitsch) 6Y-O was a nice addition this year, but 'Elan' 6Y-R seen last year in Oregon is eagerly awaited. Nothing I have seen can compare to it.

While doubles usually don't do well here, several were especially good this year. 'Delnashough' (Lea) 4W-P had the strongest stems and colour in its class. Alas, some one picked a pollinated bloom. 'Spun Honey' (Mitsch) 4Y-Y actually reversed here but retained the deep colour of the petaloids and 'Gay Song' (Richardson) 4W-W — a slow poke here, gave huge full blooms.

The cooler very wet weather after the Dayton show extended my season at least two weeks, and probably resulted in the finest flowers I've ever had of 'Lisbane' (Ballydorn) 3W-GYR and the first ever seeds on 'Cushendall' (Wilson) 3W-Gww and 'Frigid' (Wilson) 3W-GWW. The latter cross really made my year! I'm sure even Guy Wilson would have been thrilled at this event. The miniature of the year had to be 'Chit-Chat' (Mitsch) 7Y-Y. A long row, glowed richly in the May sunshine and had a wonderful fragrance too.

Seeds have been harvested, all the seedlings lifted, ready for their new home this year at Oakwood Farm. Actually my season is not quite over as the best ever bulbs from David Jackson were planted at Oakwood in a partially shaded rich loam in April and are now blooming in mid-July. A glorious sight with beautiful colours and strong, healthy tall green leaves. I've never had such good results the first year from down under, nor had such a long season before. A fit ending to my first ten years of growing daffodils and an auspicious beginning for the next ten. The fun is just beginning as the seedlings will start to bloom in two more years and the newest bulbs continue to bloom. Come and join the fun sometime, and see all the beautiful daffodils not mentioned. As Reg Cull once said, "There are no bad daffodils. It's just that some are better than others". Till next season.

Best Wishes

JOHN REED

Obituary: Mrs. Louise Hardison

Members of the N.I.D.G. will be shocked and saddened to learn of the untimely death of Louise Hardison in June of this year.

Louise was one of our most popular and knowledgeable World Convention visitors in 1979 during which she enjoyed judging at several shows. She was due to take office as President of the American Daffodil Society next spring in her native Nashville, Tennessee. We share the loss of our American friends to whom we send sincere sympathy.

The Latest and the Best 2W-P — Pinks

by NOEL and PAMELA BURR

When asked to write on the latest and best pinks we gave the matter considerable thought as there are very few of the newer cultivars which we grow, so must therefore comment on those which we have not yet acquired solely on the evidence seen on Trade stands, the Show bench or colour slides.

However, there are quite a number which we do grow which are still capable of giving a good account of themselves even at the highest level of competition. 'Rose Royale' has always appealed to us and has been very consistent, although it should be given plenty of time on the plant to develop, it is probably not large enough to win a single bloom class but is a good standby in collections. 'Fair Prospect' is capable of providing the odd super flower but the colour does seem to be variable, nevertheless we feel it worth a place in the show bed. 'Coralita' is a very good plant which was kindly donated by a friend two years ago and this year produced some very fine blooms, what a pity that the stock, like so many of the late Richardson introductions has been, as it were, scattered far and wide, and to our knowledge is not now in commerce. 'Jewel Song' we find very good, but hopelessly late in the open ground. 'Passionale' is now consigned to the garden where it is very good indeed, but has never been a favourite of ours as the perianth always appears about to expire. We must have been very much in the minority as it did win many prizes as a single bloom flower.

We grow but three non-predominates. 'Rainbow' which although it is stretching the imagination to call it pink (terra cotta would be a more apt description) is a very fine flower, a good strong plant and seems to produce a high percentage of good flowers. We feel this is indispensable. 'Drumboe' is very variable, and we have seen some lovely flowers, but has never really produced anything startling for us. This year every flower had white flecks in the cup. This will probably finish up in the border. 'Pretty Polly' has lovely colour but it is too small. 'Foundling' we grow as a dual purpose plant. It is planted in the foreground of the shrubbery where it arouses much comment from visitors, and we can usually find flowers fit to exhibit as if grown in half shade it seems to hold its colour well. Finally our latest acquisition is 'Melbury' which we grew for the first time this year. It gave us two large flowers of the deepest pink, and while having minor "nicks" in the perianths, for size and colour it gave every indication of being a potential winner.

Of the newer introductions which are available and which we hope to acquire, when funds permit, at the top of the list must come 'Dailmanach', as it would certainly appear from its success in competition not only when shown by its raiser, John Lea, but also by other exhibitors that it is probably the best "pink" in commerce. However it does not altogether please us aesthetically as the crown appears to be composed of a number of segments, giving it rather a corrugated effect instead of being completely cylindrical, however, this is only a personal

opinion and one certainly not shared by the judges. 'Pol Dornie' has lovely colour and a good perianth, though it may only be of medium size, which these days means small. We shall have to think about this one. 'Pink Paradise' and 'Pink Pageant' we think are the best pink doubles yet raised and in fact we have ordered the latter this year. 'Pink Panther' has wonderful colour but has not the perianth to make it a top class show flower though it might be bought for breeding.

We are undecided about the Tasmanian-raised 'Vahu'. It appears to be a good representative of the pink cup flowers raised in the Southern hemisphere, and perhaps is a truer "pink" than those raised north of the equator. Is this the answer to why so many of this relatively new colour seem to vary with climate and soil conditions or methods of cultivation and in fact if we inclined more to the apple blossom pink in breeding new cultivars would they prove more consistent in colour? The only criticism we can level against our 'Cherrygardens' is that it opens with colour solid to the green eye but after four or five days the colour fades leaving the cherry rim (hence its name) which it holds until the flower dies. We would have preferred that the colour remained constant.

There is still much work to be done in this field. It would appear that John Lea has a winner with his pink seedling 1/13/75 which he showed in this year's Engleheart Cup. It had an excellent perianth, deeply coloured slightly flanged cup, and was a very good size. Will this prove to be the flower of the future?

2W-P — Pinks

by BOB STERLING

In recent years it has been customary to include a pink cupped flower in group classes in addition to the usual single bloom class.

I am not alone in my admiration for the few top class exhibitors who can choose the right flower to blend and improve a group. The majority of exhibitors (myself included) use a "pink" that does nothing to improve the overall impact and most times detracts from the brightness of the exhibit by using a flower that is not quite up to standard.

'Passionale' — time has marched on, and this flower has served its purpose with dignity and should be retired to a corner in the paddock with a label "R.I.P."

'Fair Prospect' — a "must" for every exhibitor, beautiful white perianth that illuminates the coral pink cup. One of the few that enhances a collection. Rather pricey as yet, but better to buy one of this than three that lack its quality.

'Fragrant Rose' — not yet on my shopping list for a couple of reasons "Price and Proof". I have not yet seen it as a serious competitor to a few existing top class flowers. It could develop into the top three and with its fragrance could be a winner. A couple of years will give me the answer at a price that will suit.

'Salmon Spray' — this one still seems to be very scarce but some lovely specimens have been exhibited in London. It's like a modern day 'Salmon Trout' in style but with a much better stem, brighter colour and greater size.

'Violetta' — this one didn't impress me until this year when I potted three bulbs and the resulting five flowers were perfect for single bloom and group classes. The texture of the perianth is such that it is quite easy to smooth out, it does need this dressing to make it an eye-catcher. The cup is unique in colour — hence the name 'Violetta'.

'Roseate Tern' — this is my **number one**. I praised this flower a couple of years ago in our Newsletter and it has improved on that. A really beautiful flower that will demand a waiting list, so now is your opportunity to get into the stock. **"Better looking at it, than looking for it"**.

'Gracious Lady' — I have had the pleasure of admiring this one both in open ground and in pot culture. I would hesitate before suggesting that you purchase it, as I have never seen it as good as when grown at Waterford.

2W-W — White Large Cups

by MALCOLM BRADBURY

My article in the current issue of The Daffodil Society Journal examined the record of best bloom awards at the major English Shows between 1971 and 1980. Nine of the forty-one awards recorded were to 2W-W's — more than to any other sub-division. The successful 2W-W's were 'Inverpollly' (four awards), 'Ashmore', B.967, 'Canisp', 'Castle of Mey' and 'Dover Cliffs' (one award each). Both this record and the steady flow of new introductions in recent years suggest that the refinement of 2W-W's has been and remains a major objective for most breeders. Not surprisingly, a strong selection of 2W-W's needs to be grown by exhibitors hoping for success in the major collection classes. This said, and even allowing for the fact that I do not have a special interest in 2W-W's I was surprised to discover when writing this article, that my collection of 2W-W's consists mostly of varieties introduced well over a decade ago.

Most unusually, the Richardsons appear to have had little success in breeding 2W-W's. I say "appear", simply because the premature dispersion of new introductions when Mrs. Richardson ceased trading has prevented such apparently promising varieties as 'Inishmore' and 'Persepolis' (1976) from being adequately tested on the show bench. Conversely, all white daffodils were Guy Wilson's speciality and it is to some of his 2W-W introductions that I now turn.

'Castle of Mey' (1953) was best bloom at Birmingham last year. Although I did not see it myself it clearly created quite an impression. Not surprisingly perhaps when one recalls its eligibility for a class with a 50p price limit. As 'Castle of Mey' seems to have slipped my net I leave comment to others.

'Easter Moon' (1956) caused a sensation when first introduced and has proved to be an outstanding parent. At its best 'Easter Moon' has a broad smooth waxy perianth and a shortish fluted cup with a cold sage green base. In this condition 'Easter Moon' can still sometimes beat its children. The problem is that 'Easter Moon' is not consistent. All too often petals are split or heavily ribbed and cups distorted. The average exhibitor cannot spare the space to grow 'Easter Moon' in the quantity needed to be confident of getting exhibition quality blooms.

'Knewehead' (1954) is distinguished by a trumpet which rolls back as the flower ages. Of Division 1 character, 'Knewehead' lacks the size, form and substance now required in top level competition. However, 'Knewehead's' whiteness, tall stem relative to foliage height and vigour do make it a very good garden plant.

'Homage' (1955) has a tall strong stem and its large blooms of Division 3 character are well presented. Unfortunately, blooms which look promising when viewed from the rear, often have to be discarded on closer inspection because the very ruffled cup tends to split, or even grow semi-doubled.

'Stainless' (1960) has a shallow bowl-shaped crown which is elegantly fluted and a perianth which tends to reflex slightly as the flower ages. Unusually, the cup often seems to be whiter than the perianth. Like 'Homage', 'Stainless' tends to flower late mid-season, whilst 'Easter Moon', 'Knewehead' and 'Desdemona' are early mid-season varieties. Though still widely shown in collection classes, I dislike 'Stainless' which I feel has too wide a cup relative to its perianth.

'Desdemona' (1964) is a smooth flower of trumpet character with a good stem and foliage. Though sometimes successful at small shows, or in the novice classes, 'Desdemona' can be "floppy" and is usually outperformed by newer introductions.

With the possible exception of 'Castle of Mey' all of the above daffodils have proved to be good parents. However, except for 'Castle of Mey' which I have not grown, I have regrettably had to discard all the above Guy Wilson introductions in recent years. In my abnormally dry growing conditions (about 20 inches of rain per year on poor gravel-like soil), they are not as successful as the Fred Board introductions which I now consider.

B.967 ('Easter Moon' x 'Homage') is a very similar flower to its sister 'Danes Balk'. Despite its best bloom award at Birmingham in 1971, B.967 is likely to be my next reject. By current standards B.967 lacks size and has so much substance that ribbing is often a problem.

'Broomhill' (1965) was raised from 'Easter Moon' x 'Knewehead'. A remarkably consistent flower judged either between seasons or along a row of blooms. This year I picked all my sixteen blooms for our local show, where I successfully showed a vase of seven, two vases of three and two single blooms. Except for slight variations in size all blooms were identical and there were only two nicked petals in the entire crop. Of classic show form, 'Broomhill' has lovely smooth waxy petals of good substance, a strong tall stem and a useful early mid-season flowering time. Although widely grown and very successful on the show bench the absence of major best bloom in show awards in the past decade is indicative. 'Broomhill' is safe and sound but lacks the distinctiveness and perhaps the size needed for the highest awards.

'Misty Glen' (registered 1976 but shown earlier) was bred from 'Easter Moon' and 'Pigeon', selected from Fred Board's seedlings after his death and rescued for posterity by Tony Noton. As I have only grown 'Misty Glen' for a year I reserve comment, except to say that it flowers later than 'Broomhill' and has made a good start in my garden to living up to its reputation as Fred Board's best 2W-W.

'Dover Cliffs' (1956). Despite being registered a quarter of a century ago, 'Dover Cliffs' ('Riber' x 'Cantatrice') was only introduced recently. Rescued from obscurity and shown with great success by Jim Pearce,

'Dover Cliffs' is an enormous very white bloom of trumpet character, with extremely wide petals and when well grown a very smooth texture. As my growing conditions are similar to Jim's, I shall persevere with 'Dover Cliffs' despite this years floppy blooms.

I next consider three widely grown and very successful flowers raised by John Lea.

'Canisp' (1960) was raised from 'Ave' x 'Early Mist'. It is a variety which I should have bought years ago and have just obtained as an early mid-season stopgap whilst updating my collection. The comments which follow are therefore based on looking at other people's blooms. Both observation and inspection of show records suggest that 'Canisp' has good years in which it is widely and successfully exhibited and poor years in which it is hardly shown. At its best 'Canisp' has a commanding presence. I attribute this to the elegance given by combining pointed inner petals and near trumpet proportions. A variable feature is the mouth of its slightly expanding trumpet which I have seen both with and without a roll.

'Inverpolly' (1980 — but exhibited since at least the early 1960's), has an outstanding record of best bloom in show awards. So far I have found 'Inverpolly' a frustrating flower — very late flowering, slow of increase and having a rather long neck. 'Inverpolly' opens with a hint of pink in the cup, which soon fades to pure white. Of true large cup form, the inner petals of 'Inverpolly' are perhaps a little narrow by current standards. This said, like many other exhibitors I continue to hope that next season 'Inverpolly' will produce for me the once in a decade bloom of which it is capable. Meanwhile, I anticipate that 'Inverpolly' will earn its keep for me by living up to its reputation as a good parent of 2W-P's.

'Ben Hee' (1964) was raised from 'Easter Moon' x 'Omeath' and is an early flowering sister of 'Inverpolly'. Under valued when first introduced 'Ben Hee' has been very successful in the single bloom classes at the R.H.S. Competition. In my garden 'Ben Hee' increases well, and produces blooms which are whiter and earlier than 'Broomhill'. Although 'Ben Hee' rarely nicks its petals, it can be faulted for the rather untidy mouth to its cup.

I turn now to flowers which I have seen but not grown.

'Ashmore' (Blanchard 1974), raised from 'Easter Moon' x a seedling was best bloom at the R.H.S show in 1975. It has a good stem and neck, lots of substance and a very rounded perianth of broad overlapping petals, shortish cup, seems to vary between blooms. I have seen both nicely finished cups and very unattractive plain cups looking as if the end had been sawn off. Apart from the price an important element in my decision not to purchase 'Ashmore' was the harsh grey tone underlying its whiteness.

'Churchman' (Ballydorn 1968) runs counter to current fashion. Though not of trumpet character 'Churchman' has a long expanding cup with a plain flange and pointed petals. I bought 'Churchman' this year for very specific hybridizing purposes, but hope that it will add distinctiveness to my entries in early season collection classes.

I saw and discussed 'Guiding Light' (Brogden unregistered) with Bob Sterling at the R.H.S. Show in 1978. The bloom we inspected was small but looked like a Division 2 version of 1W-W 'Silent Valley'. Other blooms which we did know in the same collection were small and had suffered from their trip across the Atlantic. On the assumption that we

were right in believing that it will grow bigger and better 'Guiding Light' looked an interesting gamble in "something different". Having planted a bulb imported from New Zealand earlier this year, I hope to know the answer in about three years time!

I am told that 'Immaculate' (Jackson unregistered 1978) created a sensation at a recent New Zealand National Show. Peter Ramsay's colour slide certainly suggested that 'Immaculate' is worth watching. The slide showed a very rounded perianth with very wide petals whose edges incurred slightly. Again, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and I hope for the best as my bulb acclimatizes.

'Tutankhamun' (Abel Smith 1972) was raised from 'Ave' x 'Empress of Ireland'. It flowers early mid-season, has plenty of substance and is very white. However, it lacks the distinctiveness needed to overcome my dislike of failed trumpets.

There remains a wide range of recent introductions which I have yet to evaluate. In the next few seasons I shall again be looking at such flowers as 'Glenside' (Board), 'Innisbeg' (Carncairn), 'Troon' (Duncan), 'Croila' and 'Pitchroy' (Lea) and 'Cold Overton' and 'White Mist' (Noton). Subject to this qualification, and restricting my selection to widely grown varieties, my top four are: 'Inverpolly', 'Broomhill', 'Canisp' and 'Ben Hee'. However, I would be surprised if this ranking remained intact for long and expect 'Dover Cliffs' and 'Misty Glen' to make the grade when more widely grown. In any event, given the key role of 2W-W's in collection classes, most exhibitors will have little difficulty in justifying the growing of more than four different 2W-W's.

June, 1981

When is a Seedling not a Seedling?

by ALF CHAPPELL

For some time now I have been pondering on this question. Through my extensive readings of R.H.S. year books, etc. I have come to the conclusion that in the Northern Hemisphere a seedling remains a seedling until it is named and some of them are pretty long in the tooth. I have even seen named varieties which have been around for a while, entered, viz. R.H.S. year book 1978, page 50, for example, in the six seedling class.

Surely at some time they must become an unnamed cultivar.

Here in New Zealand, the seedling classes are for the introduction of new cultivars which are what it should be for.

For instance, our seedling classes stipulate in the 1980 schedule, "Seedlings which have flowered not prior to the 1978 season and must be named or numbered and raised by exhibitor". Seedlings purchased from another grower should not be shown.

In the class for 12 seedlings no flower may be shown which has appeared in a winning stand in the class before.

The premier seedlings are chosen from these classes only.

Seedlings may of course, be shown elsewhere but are not eligible for premier seedling but may be chosen for a premier bloom in its division.

The N. D. S. Raisers Cup is the same as the Engleheart Challenge Cup, and is for 12 cultivars raised by exhibitor, and may be of any vintage.

I would like to see some comments from some of the raisers in the British Isles.

ALF CHAPPELL, Christchurch, New Zealand

Honorary Life Membership: W. J. Dunlop

The N.I.D.G. does not have the wherewithal to confer valuable Gold Medals or such tangible mementoes. The highest honour of the Group is that of Honorary Life Membership. Our first such membership has been conferred on Mr. Willie Dunlop.

Mr. Dunlop is the father-figure of the N.I.D.G. — having been Chairman of the Daffodil Growers Steering Committee during the years when investigations and arrangements for the establishment of the Guy L. Wilson Garden were being undertaken. The creation of such a garden, in which many Northern Irish Daffodils would bloom, had long been one of his most cherished ambitions.

For those involved, it was a privilege to serve under his leadership which was inspiring, gentlemanly and abounded in common sense. The Display Garden at N. U. U., Coleraine contains a very high proportion of bulbs generously donated by Mr. Dunlop. It is now rightly recognized as one of the horticultural sights of N. Ireland.

He also laid the foundation stones for our present N.I.D.G., and though he is unable to join in our meetings he is often quoted and remembered at shows and wherever daffodil enthusiasts gather. His many friends throughout the world will be pleased to know that he is well, though he finds it difficult to get about since the accident which precipitated his retirement.

Speaking on the telephone this evening, he expressed his delight at being honoured in this fashion by the N.I.D.G. and sent his best wishes and kind regards to the daffodil fraternity everywhere. His regret is that he is unable to play a more active role in the daffodil affairs of N. Ireland.

This Honorary Life Membership is only a small measure of the esteem and respect in which Willie Dunlop is held. We wish him health, happiness and contentment in the years that lie ahead and thank him for the pleasure which his daffodil creations have brought and are still bringing to daffodil enthusiasts throughout the world.

London Show Report

by SANDY McCABE

A somewhat smaller Ulster contingent attended this year's Royal Horticultural Society's Show in London. Making his first trip was the youthful William Dukelow from Omagh who astounded everyone by the copious quantities of food which he was able to consume without showing an ounce of surplus fat. William was almost continuously hungry and ate so many chicken legs that we were expecting him to sprout feathers before he returned.

As the Show coincided with the Easter school holidays, Mesdames Duncan and McCabe also made the trip. However they seemed to be more interested in shopping in Oxford Street than in the flowers on display. They almost got themselves arrested through failing to pay for 2 cups of coffee — drank whilst resting their aching feet. Seemingly they were so exhausted (apart from their tongues) that they chatted and chatted and eventually left the cafe without stopping at the cashier's desk. It was noticeable that that particular cafe was avoided for the rest of the trip.

Through a mix up in the booking arrangements by British Rail there was no sleeping accommodation on the return rail journey to Stranraer. The ladies had the dubious privilege of having to spend the night with four males — all trying to doze in a first class compartment.

The early season meant that many flowers not normally out for London were able to be transported. However it also meant that some varieties were lacking in substance and this coupled with extremely warm weather meant that many flowers were over before the Show ended.

Two gold medals were awarded. John Lee and Rathowen being the recipients. I thought that the former was rather fortunate to be awarded the highest honour. This is no reflection on his flowers, which as usual were immaculate and extremely colourful. To me his trade exhibit lacked artistic appeal. Little or no foliage was used and the whole exhibit seemed rather bare. Carncairn Daffodils were awarded a silver gilt floral medal.

In the Engleheart Cup John Lee kept up his run of victories with an excellent group of flowers. 'Achduart' and 'Gold Convention' were my favourites. I must admit that when I first saw the latter it did not appeal but this year it successfully made its way into my list of wants — but only when the price comes down.

John Blanchard and Brian Duncan must have had a very close contest for the minor placings, the former gaining ascendancy. His flowers were very good but overall it was a pale exhibit with a marked lack of colour. Some viewers felt that Brian Duncan, with his best group yet, could possibly have reversed the placings. His 'Ulster Bank' and a Yellow Trumpet D651 caught the eye.

I was extremely gratified to see that Noel Burr — one of our English members — is making advances in the hybridising field. His 'Cherry Gardens' 2W GWP is a winner. It has the most beautiful bright pink rim that I have yet seen on a flower. (After that build-up I'll be looking for a flowering offset when stocks permit.)

The single bloom classes seemed to be a straight contest between Wilson Stewart and Rathowen with the former gaining the medal for most points. 'White Star' won the 1W-W class and was also deservedly awarded an Award of Merit for exhibition when put forward by Rathowen. Our congratulations to Tom Bloomer who was responsible for introducing what is possibly the best white trumpet yet seen. Also given an Award of Merit was 'Amber Castle' — that extremely consistent cultivar bred by Mrs. Richardson. I was privileged to see a bed of 'Amber Castle' growing at Rathowen before the Show. Almost each and every flower could have been cut for exhibition.

Rathowen's other prizewinners in the single bloom classes included 'Gin and Lime', 'Gettysburg', 'Purbeck', 'Aircastle', 'Smokey Bear', D.547, 'Eland' and 'Highfield Beauty'. 'Smokey Bear' will provide some competition for 'Tahiti' in the yellow petalled doubles and D547 — a pink cyclamineus — had seven 'Foundling' in its wake. I believe that 'Foundling' is a parent of this seedling though I am open to correction on this point. 'Eland' took the honours from Carncairn's 'Indian Maid' in Division 7.

In the collection classes Carncairn showed good vases of 'Cool Crystal' and 'Aircastle' in the "foreign" classes whilst Rathowen's 'High Society' and 'Lancelot' appealed in the 12 varieties 3 blooms of each.

The aforementioned ever hungry William Dukelow conveyed 7 flowers for entry in the novice classes. He was rewarded with two first places through 'Tudor Minstrel' and 'Perimeter', one second place and two thirds. Five prizes from 7 flowers is an excellent start and perhaps next year William will join the many previous winners from Northern Ireland of the Blanchard Prize. Let's hope so and so keep up the Ulster tradition.

This was another successful foray by N.I.D.G. members to the Mainland. However we need more people to make the trip. Irrespective of the outcome of the judging and the hard work which is necessarily involved, you are assured of laughter, fun and good comradeship. Please join us in 1982.

Guy Wilson Memorial Trophy

In January this year the Narcissus and Tulip Committee launched an appeal to raise funds to provide a Silver Vase to be awarded annually at the daffodil show at Vincent Square, in open competition for a collection of white daffodils, this to be called the Guy Wilson Memorial Trophy.

As organiser of this fund I should like to thank all those who have given most generously, and in particular the N.I.D.G. I am happy to report that next Spring a class for this trophy will be included in the schedule, a fitting tribute to a great Ulsterman.

The fund is still open should anyone still wish to give a donation. Cheques should be made payable to N. A. Burr, Guy Wilson Memorial Fund, Popes Hall Cottage, Limes Lane, Buxted, Uckfield, Sussex, TN22 4PB.

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.