

Newsletter

of the
**Northern Ireland
Daffodil Group**



Half-yearly publication of the
Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

OCTOBER 1987
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

Vol. 3 No. 1

October 1987

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Rules of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

1. **Title**
The group shall be called "The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group Society"
2. **Registered Office**
The registered office is 1 Glenholm Crescent, Belfast BT8 4LT.
3. **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;
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 - (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 or 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;
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 - (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;
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 - (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.
4. **Membership and Subscription**
Membership of the Society shall be open to anyone on the payment of a minimum subscription, for the time being, of £4 per annum or £10 for 3 years due on the 1st January. Any member being twelve months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned.

- Honorary Members, who shall be elected on the recommendation of the Committee at a general meeting of the Society shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be liable to pay the subscription.
5. **Committee**
The management of the Society shall be vested in the committee of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and four additional members, and the committee shall have power to co-opt, and power also to invite a non-member to attend its proceedings.
A quorum for committee meetings shall be four, with the Chairman having a casting vote.
A record of proceedings shall be kept.
The officers and committee shall be elected annually at the annual general meeting, and may be removed from office only by a general meeting.
No member may serve for more than 4 consecutive years on the Committee.
6. **Sub-Committees**
The committee shall have power to appoint a sub-committee for any special purpose. A sub-committee shall make a record of its proceedings. The Chairman of each sub-committee shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
7. **Annual General Meeting and Other General Meetings**
The annual general meeting shall be held in January each year, and other general meetings may be held at any time directed by the committee. Ten or more members may convene a general meeting if the committee refuses their written request for a general meeting. At least 7 days notice in writing shall be given of any general meeting and shall state the agenda.
A quorum for General Meetings shall be fifteen, with the Chairman having a casting vote.
Any member desiring to propose a resolution shall send the proposed resolution in writing to the Honorary Secretary, to arrive not less than 48 hours before the meeting.
8. **Amendment of Rules**
Rules may only be amended at a general meeting of which due notice had been given.
9. **Voting at General Meetings**
Every fully paid up member shall be entitled to vote at a general meeting and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
A record of the business conducted shall be kept.
10. **Accounts**
A Bank Account shall be maintained in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and the Chairman or Secretary.
An audited statement of the accounts of the Society shall be submitted by the Treasurer to the annual general meeting.
An auditor, whether honorary or paid, shall be elected at each annual general meeting.
11. **Disputes**
Any dispute between a member and the committee shall be determined by a sub-committee appointed under Rule 6 and the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Society, the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for the time being, shall be members of such sub-committee.
12. **Dissolution**
On dissolution of the Society the assets shall not be divisible between the members but shall be given to a body, whether incorporated or not which has purposes which are charitable in a manner as nearly as may be resembling the purpose of the Society and which is selected by the Society at its terminal general meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

This issue marks the 25th anniversary of the death of the father of Ulster daffodils, Mr. Guy Livingstone Wilson, and it is appropriate that it should be dedicated to his memory. Though the number of Wilson raised varieties staged at shows is now declining, our Editor produced a magnificent 'Cantabile' to win "Best in Show" at Omagh this year. Was this his own special and personal tribute and thanks for the character forming and philosophical training gained as a schoolboy employee? Did Guy Wilson ever imagine his wide-eyed pupil was destined to become Secretary/Editor of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group, and Daffodil Champion of Ireland?

The year 1987 was a disaster for those of us who went to the London Show. Most unseasonal temperatures in the 80's, even inside the R.H.S. Hall, were just too much for early-cut, and much-travelled Northern Ireland daffodils. Flowers died before our eyes, as only slightly fresher replacements were staged. Finally the effort was given up, competitive entries dismantled and vases in trade stands removed or reduced in flower count. It was a novel, and hopefully "once in a lifetime" experience to stand before carefully and painstakingly staged exhibits extolling virtues and past glories of bedraggled daffodils with sagging, colourless perianths. Undoubtedly 1987 was a London Show to forget — onward with optimism to April 1988.

The Northern Ireland Show scene is reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, but I do want to welcome particularly, the band of enthusiastic exhibitors from the Dublin area, who support us so well, and whose increasing success provides such healthy competition for the Ulster locals. We hope to see the names of M. J. Ward, I. Erskine, M. G. Martin, R. W. Newport and their friends, on the prize lists against next Spring.

The Daffodil Ballot was a moderate, if not outstanding success, with prizes going to England, Ireland and America. On behalf of the Group, I extend thanks to all who subscribed and congratulations to the lucky winners. A list is published elsewhere.

October marks a new event — a Bulb Show instead of a Flower Show. This may seem like Yellow Fever in its terminal stages, but perhaps it is not as daft as it seems! The Show will be at a meeting, addressed by Mr. Wm. Lemmers, a leading bulb expert from Holland, and afterwards we hope all our members and visitors will know what to look for when selecting their bulbs.

And so to the 1988 season — may the pleasures and enjoyments be great and numerous, and the disappointments easily forgotten.

Good Luck
BRIAN S. DUNCAN



Guy L. Wilson

EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Whilst gathering material for this issue, I came across the photograph of G. L. Wilson which appears on page 5. Sadly I realised that 25 years had elapsed since the white daffodil king had departed this life. With apologies to no-one I decided this issue would be dedicated to his memory. Without his influence I doubt if the N.I.D.G. would be in existence today. How pleased he would have been to have known that his pioneering efforts in our Province would have resulted, a quarter of a century later, in so many of us getting enjoyment from his beloved daffodils.

A story is told of how, on one occasion, he and his great friend and rival, J. L. Richardson, were selecting flowers for show. As always, time was short and the pressures great. Guy was gazing at the sky and wondered aloud if there were daffodils in Heaven. J. L. is reported to have replied that he didn't know, but that there were plenty on earth that would not get to the show unless Guy continued cutting. G.L.'s reply was that if there were no daffodils in Heaven then it would be a much poorer place.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 31st January, 1988 Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 16th April, 1988 Bangor H.S. Show
Wednesday, 27th April, 1988 Championship of Ireland at Ballymena

Congratulations are due to our Chairman, B. S. Duncan, who was awarded the Peter Barr Memorial Cup at London in April. This is the second time in three years that this prestigious trophy has come to Northern Ireland. Come is the wrong word as at the time of going to press, he has still not received it. However, well done Brian on a merited achievement and we hope that this offset many of the disappointments experienced at the same London Show.

DAFFODIL GROWING IN THE BRAID VALLEY

In the valley of the Braid in County Antrim, perhaps more than any other place in Ireland, spring time means daffodil time. During this season in little humpy hedge-lined fields around the village of Broughshane may be seen some of the finest of choice daffodils to be found anywhere in the world — giant yellow and white "trumpets", vivid orange and red "cups", delicate pinks, graceful miniatures. Neat four feet wide beds, immaculately weed-free and separated by little pathways, stretch parallel up field and then down, from hedge to hedge. Each variety, massed, the bulbs close planted, stands out from its neighbours, the earliest from the latest, the mid-seasons in between. The labels carry names with a lilt and a ring to them matching their lovely owners — 'Ballintoy' and 'Ballymarlow', 'Cantatrice', 'Castlecoole', 'Corrymeela' and 'Castlerock'; 'Glenwherry' and 'Portaferry'; 'Sylvia O'Neill', 'Rose of May', 'Tinsel' and 'Woodgreen'.

Although there is no tradition of commercial horticulture in this district of typical general mixed farming, one may trace back the early beginnings of daffodil growing to the latter years of the last century.

Guy Wilson loved daffodils as a child. As far back as 1915 he wrote in "The Daffodil Year Book" thus: "I think my love of Daffodils must have come into the world with me from some better place, for I cannot recall a time when I did not love them." In a later Year Book he records "My love of Daffodils dates from earliest childhood, as far back as memory carries me." His mother in her garden at Knowehead outside Broughshane, grew *Narcissus telamonius plenus*, *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus* and *Narcissus minor* in the grass — these were known as the "common double", the "common single" and the "dwarf daffodil" — and in the borders *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus obvallaris*, *Narcissus incomparabilis plenus* and *Narcissus poeticus recurvus* — in more homely terms the "Tenby Daffodil", "Butter and Eggs" and the "Single Narciss". These were the companions of infancy.

To a Cork nurseryman, William Baylor Hartland, belongs the distinction of producing in 1884 one of the first all-daffodil lists ever published, entitled in the rather quaint style of those days "A Little Book of Daffodils". It was to the 1888 issue, given to him by his mother and over which subsequently he pored many hours, that Guy Wilson owes much of his early enthusiasm and inspiration.

In his teens, Guy Wilson started to build up a collection of varieties and in 1906 he made his first crosses. The article in the 1915 Year Book mentioned above, entitled "Among My Seedlings", attracted the attention of the Rev. G. H. Engleheart, M.A., V.M.H., and prompted him to write, somewhat prophetically, in "The Garden"

that here was "a somewhat new planet in the Daffodil Sky", adding further on that "he can write English, an accomplishment not so common as is supposed". In a letter of congratulations to Wilson, F. Herbert Chapman concluded by saying "for Engleheart to tell a man that he can write English is praise indeed, but I think his remarks were quite justified". Such was the praise of two of the foremost horticulturalists of the day.

Guy Wilson continued to be an enthusiastic amateur until 1920, when he decided to leave the family woollen business to devote his time entirely to growing and breeding the flowers he loved. Two years later saw the first Wilson seedlings registered by the Royal Horticultural Society. One, 'White Dame', a white trumpet, on receiving an Award of Merit on March 14th, 1922, presaged future trends. Although by no means could it be said that Guy Wilson has confined his attention to one type or class in his breeding programme, over the years white daffodils have rather become his speciality, culminating in such great varieties as 'Broughshane', 'Cantatrice', 'Kanchenjunga', 'Knothead', 'Chinese White' and more recently 'Empress of Ireland'. In the 1955 Daffodil Year Book he wrote: "White Daffodils have always had a special fascination for me, and I have worked continuously on them since I began breeding". Amongst the most vivid of his remote memories is that of asking his mother "Are there any white daffodils"? Her answer was to show him the pictures in William Baylor Hartland's catalogue.

Wilson's earliest catalogues contained only a few varieties, most of which were novelties and often only two or three bulbs of each were available. Prices were from £10 per bulb for the white 'Beersheba' raised by the Rev. Engleheart and hailed then as a great advance on anything of its type hitherto seen, to 3/- for Wilson's 'Irish Pearl', which was stated to increase with great rapidity. The 1924 catalogue listed fourteen Wilson varieties, of which one, 'Goldbeater', an early flowering yellow trumpet, still retains its place in the latest list. As an interesting comparison, top price in 1960 when 208 varieties were catalogued was £15 per bulb of 'Empress of Ireland' which was voted by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1959 as the best exhibition white trumpet. The great majority of the bulbs on offer, however is in the 1/6d to 10/- range. Of these 139 are of Wilson's raising, tribute to his work as an artist with pollen and brush, over a period of fifty odd years first at Knothead and since 1925 at The Knockan, Broughshane. In 1950 the Royal Horticultural Society honoured Guy Wilson with the Victoria Medal of Honour, its highest award. When presenting the Medal to him, the president of the Royal Horticultural Society said: "When he was a boy, his people said 'Business is the thing for you', but they were always rather frightened of the 'yellow peril', because they knew from his boyhood he was fascinated by Daffodils . . ." Nearer home, the Queen's University of Belfast, in 1951 conferred on him the degree of Master of Agriculture.

Over the years, forty in fact, John Shaw, daffodil foreman, a quiet-spoken Braid man, has, methodically and without fuss, supervised the seasonal round of tasks, lifting, sorting, cleaning, despatching, replanting, that go to make the daffodil year.

Three miles away on the other side of Broughshane at Dunrobin on a more exposed open site is the bulb farm belonging to W. J. Dunlop. Like Wilson, Dunlop also spent his early adult years in the family business, in this instance behind the counter of a draper's shop in Ballymena. The death of his father, medical advice and an early love of plants helped in the decision to leave shop counter for an outdoor life. Growing on a commercial scale commenced in 1942. Before this Willie Dunlop had been a keen amateur daffodil grower and exhibitor. In 1939 his enthusiasm took him and a few choice blooms from his garden in Ballymena to the London Daffodil Show. His first trade group was staged at the same show immediately after the war in 1946. The first crosses were made in 1937 and as a result, ten years later varieties like 'Ballycastle', white with an entrancing orange-rimmed cup, 'Brookfield', a large-cupped exhibition white, 'Castlerock', with yellow perianth and crimson-red crown, 'Glenwherry', a red and white small-cupped daffodil, and 'Pink Isle', a large-cupped pink, were registered by the Royal Horticultural Society. Since then, new varieties embracing many divisions and colours have been introduced regularly. Dunlop admits to a partiality for the red and white "cups", invariably clean flowers, the bright coronas or cups making a startling and beautiful contrast with the pure white perianth of petals. Foremost introductions in this group are 'Enniskillen', 'Irish Charm' and 'Pride of Erin', a sister seedling to 'Glenwherry'. In his 1930 catalogue, of the 204 varieties listed, 75 are from the Dunlop stable.

Broughshane daffodil bulbs are exported to many parts of the world, the U.S.A. being the biggest overseas customer with orders comprising approximately one-third the total. Other importers include Holland, primarily for hybridising purposes, Sweden, France, South Africa, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In order to ensure compliance with strict import regulations regarding freedom from pests and diseases, the daffodils are inspected and the soil tested regularly by the Ministry of Agriculture.

More recently this specialised industry has been extended by the advent of a new firm, Carncairn Daffodils Ltd. A collection of choice varieties is being built up on the farm belonging to Major R. H. Reade at Carncairn, under the supervision of Mrs. Reade.

Right in the centre of the village of Broughshane, Sam Stirling specialises in growing fine blooms for market from a large stock of varieties. Early cutting is ensured by gently forcing the bulbs which are grown in boxes. These forced bulbs are grown and rested for two years outside before being boxed up for forcing again.

The "yellow peril" is a catching complaint; it is not surprising, therefore, that there is a large number of keen enthusiasts drawn from various walks of life in the Broughshane and Ballymena

districts — Tom Bloomer and Eddie Power, both of whom have raised seedlings of their own breeding, Col. J. B. Wilson, nephew of Guy Wilson, T. L. Wright, teacher, and Willie Madill, chemist, and gardeners John Maybin and John Carleton. For these and many others the crowded benches at the Ballymena Horticultural Society's Daffodil Show forms the meridian of the daffodil season.

To-day in places where to talk "shop" is to talk daffodils, Guy L. Wilson and W. J. Dunlop are known and honoured. Between them these two mid-Antrim men have raised and introduced some of the world's outstanding varieties.

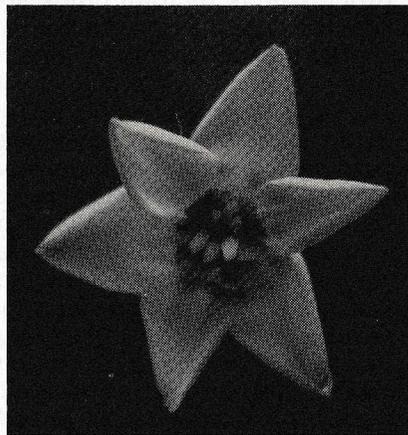
First published in the early sixties and reprinted by kind permission of the author, Craig Wallace, present Director of Parks, Belfast City Council.

A SORRY TALE

FRANK HARRISON

This is a story that never should have been written, and never would have been, had it not been that Brian Duncan at the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group Late Show at Carncairn Lodge in 1987 took a photograph. This showed a daffodil seedling which had been put up to show what a disastrous failure years of crossing and re-crossing cultivars to produce a beautiful green crowned flower had been.

That flower unfortunately took a better picture than its actual self should have allowed. What had been exhibited as an object lesson in flower faults to be avoided by hybridisers, comes out with such a beautiful rounded bright grassy green corona that the eye is diverted from the pointed and rather incurved perianth segments. As the bud opens these are green flushed and later become a sort of greenish ivory of great substance and remarkably poor form. Added to these defects, the anthers are splayed up and down, speaking of poeticus blood, and for bad measure the pollen when it appears, is so late in May that no other flower is available as a seed parent.



The whole flower is borne on a tall stem with good poise, a fine robust stalk and rich green foliage all worthy of some much better thing. It will, of course, never be named but it could be called "Green Tragedy" or "Greenhorn"?

The flower, however, excited not only sympathy for the raiser but also curiosity among other breeders as to how such a thing ever came to be produced and why.

Well that takes us back to Guy Wilson and his *N.* 'Cushendall', *N.* 'Cantabile' and the beautiful *N.* 'Lough Areema'. It must have been in the late 1950s, certainly over 30 years ago, that he said that there could be a green crowned Division 3 or Division 9 just round the corner. *N.* 'Frigid' and 'Foggy Dew' were mentioned as having green throats and some qualifications as potential pollen or seed parents if crossed with the other cultivars mentioned. Thus inspired, the long, frustrating exercise began with multiple crossings in which *N.* 'Cushendall', 'Cantabile' and 'Frigid' featured as the best seed parents, with *N.* 'Lough Areema' and 'Cantabile' producing the best colour breaks, but always orange/red rimmed flowers. More substance was needed, so *N.* 'Tryst' (Division 2B) and *N.* 'Portrush' came into the developing picture.

By some time in the mid 1960s Willie Dunlop was paying us one of his always stimulating and welcome visits to Ballydorn and together we found a minor wonder of 'Cushendall' and 'Cantabile' blood, which had a small round white perianth and a dime-sized pale green crown. What a treasure it was. How carefully marked and tended, but like everything else, it got the three hour hot water treatment which did not, alas, preserve it for next year. It melted away with what we now call botrytis cinerarea, but then innocently referred to as "the fungus".

The search for perfection went on, but by now we were getting the kind of seedlings in other Divisions which we have always made our prime objective, that is to say, a robust garden plant of free flowering character and with thick substance. The substance often came from Guy Wilson's *N.* 'Guardian' and *N.* 'Tryst' in the white petalled things and *N.* 'Home Fires' and 'Kilmorack' in the yellow reds, but that is another story, and the failure to repeat the solid green crown began to take second place to other more immediately rewarding objectives.

However, a new range of perspectives opened up with Dr. Bill Bender's correspondence about his *N.* 'Bythnia' crosses aiming at the same green crown and with later news of Mr. M. Lima's and Mr. William Welch's interest in the same direction, this gave new impetus to the then failing enthusiasm at Ballydorn.

By that time *N.* 'Portrush', open pollinated by Division 3C's, had produced *N.* 'Portstewart', and in its turn *N.* 'Portstewart' x *N.* 'Tryst' had produced *N.* 'Port Erin', a heavy textured flower with green buds, and a green throat and deep, green corona rimmed white, but liable to "blast" in dry hot weather at the end of May. Thereafter

things become confused because we discovered that *N.* 'Portstewart' would cross with everything in sight and ripen a lot of seed. But this occurred at a time when other pressures of life demanded less book work given to daffodil breeding and more to the cares of a judicial life. So the trail comes to an end and all one can say is that of the considerable number of good things from *N.* 'Portstewart' seedlings there is this oddity which Brian Duncan has flattered with his beautiful photograph of better than reality.

The only good result to come out of this long, sad series of disappointed hopes is that, rather unexpectedly, we got a whole collection of really robust plants with highly coloured flowers at first having deep green eyes, and later throats, then $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ of the corona in shades of green, varying from sage through to deep emerald. These include *N.* 'Ardglass', *N.* 'Goose Green' and *N.* 'Tullybeg' and the enchanting *N.* 'Fairy Footsteps', *N.* 'Frank's Fancy' and hopefully more to come in 1988.

The moral of this sad story is that when you shoot at a rabbit on the ground you may hit a pheasant in the air, but only if you are lucky.

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Killinchy · Newtownards · Co. Down
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Offers new and recent award-winning
introductions and selected seedling
stocks

*All cultivars of proven vigour, substance, and
purity of colour*

Catalogues will be sent out in early March 1988 to purchasers of bulbs in 1986 and 1987. Should you fail to receive a copy, kindly write to the above address, and a free copy will be sent

BANGOR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW 1987

DAVID LLOYD

Yet another unusually late season ensured that there were only two competitors for the Lionel Richardson Perpetual Trophy for the Championship of Ireland, Sandy McCabe — last year's winner — and Carncairn Daffodils. Considering how few flowers each had to choose from both groups were admirable. In the end Sandy McCabe won, chiefly because his flowers had some advantage in size. His 1Y-Y 'Galahad', which looks much more like a large-cup than a Division 1 flower, was his outstanding bloom and indeed was awarded the prize for best bloom. He also showed a good 'White Star' whose poise was rather too pensive and a useful 'Newcastle'. (I always find it difficult to enthuse over 'Newcastle' and "useful" is a useful adjective.) The group was colourful and well-balanced.

Kate Reade's second prize group was also a gallant effort in the circumstances. Her outstanding flower was a most attractive 3W-Y seedling No. 5/4/79 'Golden Aura' x 'Aircastle', which had inherited its father's extra wide inner petals with their attendant risk of imperfection, and this just lost her the best bloom award, although for me it was quite the most exciting and delightful flower on view that day. It was also the best bloom in Division 3 and the best unregistered seedling. There was also an attractive all-yellow double seedling No. 44/75, with a symmetrical double row of fully-fashioned petals.

Class 3, the Royal Mail Trophy for six Irish-raised cultivars, produced another win for Sandy McCabe. 'Galahad' was again the leading flower, but there was no coloured cup on view save 'Lilac Charm'. Carncairn was second once again: 'Royal Wedding' was, I thought, the best flower here, but I also noted a promising orange-petalled seedling No. 2/2/80 and the refined if smallish white trumpet 'Leslie Hill'.

Competition for the Roese Bowl for five U.S. raised cultivars was weak indeed, as was inevitable: it was won by Brian Duncan with a flourish of cyclamineus hybrids. The seedling classes were equally undistinguished.

I made no notes of the less exalted daffodil classes, but all in all it was a delightful show held on a brilliantly fine day, and I was impressed by the many classes for children.

Beauty is worse than wine: it intoxicates both the holder and the beholders.

NORTHERN IRELAND SHOW REPORT

SANDY McCABE

The early season forecast by many enthusiasts in January failed to materialise. An extremely cold dry February delayed growth to such an extent that the early shows were badly affected.

This was particularly noticeable at Bangor on 11th April when the Championship of Ireland and associated classes should have been the highlight of the season. Only Carncairn and I were able to stage 12 single blooms from at least 3 divisions in the Championship. For the record, I was successful with 'Newcastle', 'Gin & Lime', 'White Star', 'Galahad', 'Comal', 'Dailmanach', 'Battle Cry', 'Chief Inspector', 'Birdalone', 'Resplendent', 'Rivendell' and 'Golden Jewel'. The overall effect would have been improved by the inclusion of a red and white flower but I had none available.

'Galahad' was adjudged best flower in Show and naturally best Division 1. Of the others 'Newcastle', 'Comal' and 'Golden Jewel' were the pick.

In Carncairn's entry, Kate Reade had the consolation of winning Best Division 2 — 'Royal Wedding', Best unregistered seedling and Best Division 3 with 5/4/79 (3W-Y) ('Golden Aura' x 'Aircastle') and Best Division 4 with another seedling 44/75 ('Fiji' O.P.).

In the Royal Mail Trophy (6 varieties — 3 blooms of each, Irish raised) I again pipped Carncairn with an entry consisting of 'Newcastle', 'Galahad', 'Chief Inspector', 'Golden Aura', 'Irish Mist' and 'Lilac Charm' which was included to comply with the directive calling for 3 Divisions. Another bloom of this delectable 6W-GPP flower was successful in winning for me the W. J. Toal Award which is awarded to the best flower from Divisions 5-9.

Carncairn showed 'Royal Wedding', 'Leslie Hill', 'Red Cottage' and 3 seedlings in their Royal Mail entry with 'Royal Wedding' being their best vase.

Brian Duncan won the American raised class with 5 cyclamineus flowers and also won the Division 6 seedling class with D1098 6Y-Y.

The Amateur Senior Classes were poorly contested with only Gilbert Andrews offering any real opposition to Willie Davidson who won the 12-Bloom class with a well coloured group containing 'Resplendent', 'Loch Hope', 'Riobravo', 'Balvanie' and 'April Love' which was a candidate for best bloom and was best flower in the Section.

Entries were scarce in the Intermediate and Novice Classes with the only blooms of note being 'Golden Jewel' shown by Mrs. Maisie Jones and an unnamed 1W-Y (believed to be 'Preamble') shown by Mrs. J. Edgar, Bangor which were chosen as best blooms in the Intermediate and Novice Sections respectively.

Ballymena Spring Show came next on our schedule being held on 15th April. Here Kate Reade gained her revenge by exhibiting an extremely colourful entry consisting of 5/4/79, 2/2/80, 'Royal

Wedding', 44/75, 2/34/66, 'Apricot Sundae', 3/8679, 4/479, 'Eskylane', 1/2/80, 'Golden Aura' and 'Fair Prospect'. Kate's best flowers in the group were 2/2/80 (2O-R), (Best Unregistered Seedling and a really hot colour) 'Apricot Sundae' (Best Division 4) and 'Royal Wedding'.

In my second placed entry, I had the consolation of winning best in show with 'Silken Sails' and best Division 1 with 'Galahad'. Brian Duncan came third with an entry which had obviously been forced open. Some of his blooms had been in bud the night before the show. However his 'Premiere' was adjudged best Division 2 and *'Treasury' (1Y-Y) also impressed. I had never seen this flower before and it appears to be of good strong texture. It has deep yellow colour and was a candidate for best trumpet.

In the Open Seedling Classes there was nothing to really enthuse over apart from Carncairn's 3/19/78 — a poeticus which won best exhibit any other division.

The foreign raised class was won by me with 'Cool Crystal', 'Silken Sails', 'Comal', 'Daydream' and 'Bit O' Gold' and Brian Duncan's all cyclamineus entry of 'Durango', 'Perky', 'Treena', 'Jet Fire' and 'Itzim' was second.

The principal class in the amateur senior for the Guy L. Wilson Trophy attracted 2 entries with J. P. McCausland gaining the verdict over Sam Bankhead. J.P., in his twelve, showed 'Park Springs' (Reserve Best Bloom in Show and Best Bloom in the Section). J.P. was at pains to point out that this example of a lovely flower was NOT the same bloom which he exhibited successfully at 3 or 4 shows in the 1986 season! Other flowers of note in his entry were 'April Love' and 'Broomhill'. The pick of Sam's second placed group were 'Ringleader', 'Newcastle' and 'Silent Valley'.

The Amateur Senior Collection and Single Bloom Classes were keenly contested by J.P., Sam and me but the flowers were nothing exceptional and showed signs of the difficult season.

The Amateur Intermediate Classes were a complete disaster with only 8 blooms being exhibited. Best Bloom in the Section went to 'Thalia' shown by Mrs. M. Johnston.

The Amateur Novice Section was more keenly contested but the flowers were of a very poor quality. Best Bloom went to an unknown 2W-P flower shown by S. Forth.

The number and standard of entries in the Intermediate and Novice Sections was extremely disappointing. Now that most of our recent converts to Daffodil-Mania have graduated to the senior ranks, one wonders where the next batch are coming from. So to all resident members of the N.I.D.G. and with apologies to a well known politician "Get on your bikes" — spread the Gospel according to St. Narcissus and endeavour to involve your children, grandchildren, neighbours, friends, acquaintances and their children.

*The name 'Treasury' was not acceptable to the R.H.S. and this flower has been re-named 'Dispatch Box'.

Easter Saturday, 18th April, saw a clash of dates with Coleraine, Gilnahirk and Enniskillen all being held on the same day. With Sam Bankhead, I had the privilege of judging at Coleraine. Derek Turbitt had a field day but this was just reward for the hard-working secretary of the Coleraine Society who has infected quite a few members with yellow fever. They will now have to be taught to travel to other shows in the Province and not confine their labours and their talents to their own Society.

Their Show was again timed to coincide with an Open Day at the Guy L. Wilson Gardens and this was an added attraction. Derek Turbitt won practically all the Silverware but was pipped for Best Bloom in Show by Leslie Donnell who produced an immaculate 'Ben Hee'. This same exhibitor also showed two seedlings in the 2Y-R class which were placed first and second. These two particular flowers were included in a batch of mixed seedlings from an unknown commercial grower. If they are typical blooms of their variety, someone has slipped up as much worse flowers have been registered.

A further attraction at Coleraine was a small trade display by Carncairn which evoked much favourable comment and interest.

Enniskillen Show on the same date attracted entries from Dublin, Killinchy and Omagh. Rathowen won the 12-Bloom class with good specimens of 'Badbury Rings', 'Sportsman' and 'Lennymore'. Other flowers noted by our correspondent were 'Silent Valley' shown by Michael Ward and 'Tudor Grove' (I. Erskine). Information gleaned on the grapevine reveals that Mr. Erskine will be a force to be reckoned with in the years ahead.

Sam Dukelow showed amateur hybridists how it should be done by winning the Division 1 seedling class with 81/16/A ('Empress of Ireland' x 'White Star') which is described as having excellent form and great substance. Ballydorn won Division 2 and Division 3 Seedling classes with 82/2Y-R/W5 ('Vulcan' x 'Mexico City') and an attractive Division 3 seedling coded 3W-6WO respectively. No number or breeding for this latter flower was noted by our reporter.

Ian Erskine showed a superb 'Dr. Hugh' to gain best in show award and other flowers noted were 'Broomhill', 'Strines', 'Premiere', 'Newcastle', 'Golden Sovereign' and 'Woodland Prince'. I understand that the Amateur sections, Senior, Intermediate and Novice were all well supported so perhaps my despondency after Ballymena is not really justified.

No report has, as yet, been received from Gilnahirk but I hear that John O'Reilly's 'Golden Joy' won best in show.

The weather during the week prior to Hillsborough Show on 25th April was ideal, being warm, calm and dull. Flowers responded well with the result that the show benches were filled with an array of blooms in peak condition. This year Hillsborough hosted the Amateur Championship of Ireland and I understand that Sir Frank Harrison and Michael Ward were forced to deliberate for a lengthy period before awarding the trophy to J. P. McCausland with Gilbert

Andrews and John O'Reilly filling the minor placings by what our reporter describes as the narrowest of margins. Two other competitors in this class — F. Anderson and W. Davidson — were highly commended so it appears as if it was an exciting contest.

Flowers of note were Amber Castle', 'Interval', 'Broomhill', 'Purbeck' (J. P. McCausland) 'Golden Amber', 'Debbie Rose', 'Tudor Love' (G. Andrews) 'Broomhill', 'Premiere', 'Verdant' (J. O'Reilly) and the latter also included a Duncan seedling X74/1 ('Dr. Hugh' / 'Irish Rover') which was adjudged best unregistered seedling in the show.

Best bloom was awarded to 'Vulcan' shown by J. Bowness whom we are glad to see exhibiting again and he also showed Best Division 1 with 'Viking'. Other best in show awards in their respective divisions went to 'Merlin', 'Unique' and 'Hawera'.

The Hillsborough Society are trying to encourage the younger generation in daffodil culture. To this end they purchase a collection of bulbs which are distributed among local schools. Flowers are grown by the pupils and staged in a confined section. The winner is presented with a collection of bulbs to enable him or her to compete in the Novice section in future years. This seems to me an excellent idea which other Societies might like to copy.

Several days of really hot weather with a burning sun followed and those of us who had attended the R.H.S. Show in London feared the worst when we returned home. Many scorched blooms were evident and a howling gale on Thursday, 30th April practically flattened all remaining flowers. Despite this, Omagh Show on 2nd May was very well supported and many excellent flowers were displayed.

B. S. Duncan won the 12-Bloom class with an entry which was literally head and shoulders above the rest. His entry comprised 'Chinchilla', D.989, 'Smokey Bear', 'Patabundy', 'Val D'Incles', 'State Express', 'Rivendell', 'Nether Barr', D.1024, D.1030 and 'Goldfinger'.

D.989 (3Y-YYR) was a beautiful flower which won best Division 3 and best unregistered seedling. 'Nether Barr' (2W-6YR), 'Val D'Incles' (3W-GWW) and 'Smokey Bear' were also in prime condition.

Carncairn's second placed entry included 'Royal Wedding' which was awarded Best Division 2 in show and a seedling 1/19/92 (2W-GWY) which was impressive. They easily won the American raised class from Michael Ward and Rathowen.

The seedling classes were filled with a host of flowers from professional and amateur alike. Brian Duncan cleaned up with D.840 (1Y-Y) Best Trumpet in Show, D.968 ('Strand Palace') (4W-P), Best Double and Reserve Best Bloom. D.1068 (2W-GPP) and D.1081 (4W-Y) also were worthy specimens.

Best Bloom in the Show was awarded to my 'Cantabile' which pleased me but for my money the award should have gone to D.989.

Sam Dukelow and J. P. McCausland fought a keen battle in the Amateur senior with Sam gaining the awards for most points.

The other sections were also well supported with Maurice Kerr emerging victorious over Albert Allen with R. H. Allen in third place in the Intermediate and a new exhibitor — George Jordan — sweeping all before him in the Novice. Best blooms in these sections were R. H. Allen's 'Churchfield' and G. Jordan's 'Unique' respectively.

My thanks to M. Kerr and R. H. Allen for their assistance in compiling this report.

N.I.D.G. LATE SHOW

MAURICE KERR

Despite the ravages of gale force winds and heavy rain on the previous Saturday, the Late Show at Carncairn on Sunday, 10th May was very successful.

Once again this mainly fun day was timed to coincide with an Open Day organised by the National Trust. Over 600 adults passed through the gates and much astonishment and wonder was expressed at the variety of blooms and colours on display.

Our commercial friends erected small trade groups and showed many of their new seedlings. Ballydorn created a stir with a novel green flower which had rather pointed light green petals which apparently do not open out completely, and a bright intense green cup. We wondered if we were witnessing the birth of a completely new colour break. Ballydorn also showed seedling 873/3W 970 Late /8 — a delightful 3W-GWR which was adjudged best bloom in the show and a beautiful vase of 'Lisbane' with its bright red rim.

Carncairn's 'Quiet Day' had a field day in the 2W-P class being placed first, second and third. Their 'Fuego' won the 2Y-R class and a 'Cantabile' cross won Division 9.

Brian Duncan's doubles were much in evidence and D.755 ('Monterrico' x 'Dr. Hugh') won the Division 4 class whilst D.1076 (D.247 x 'Valinor') was successful in the pink rimmed class.

Other winning blooms of note were 'Nether Barr', 'Vernal Prince' (Reserve Best Bloom), 'Achduart', 'Bright Spark', 'Sea Dream' and 'Bunting'. The seedling class was closely fought with the winner being D.989 ('Dilemma' x 'Rotarian').

This annual swan song to our show season is a chance to meet friends, talk daffodils and generally admit with reluctance that another show season has passed into history. Judging is not taken too seriously and is left to an assorted and motley crew who are not involved in the particular class. The verdicts in such cases are not whole-heartedly agreed upon by all and sundry but the one unanimous award of the day went to our gracious host and hostess — Robin and Kate Reade. They provided an excellent buffet lunch

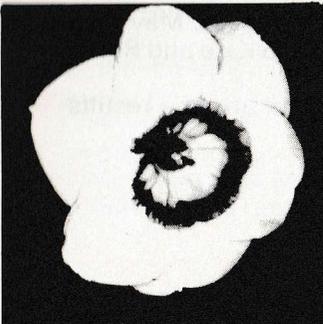
for many members and their hospitality was boundless. May I, on behalf of the N.I.D.G., express our sincere thanks to Kate and Robin for a wonderful day.

(Editor's Note: AMEN. Less wine at Lunch, Robin, and the results may have been different!)

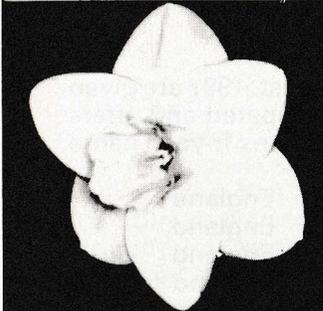
BULB BALLOT

The results of the Bulb Ballot held on 16th August, 1987 are given below. The N.I.D.G. wish to thank all who participated and offers congratulations to the winners and commiserations if your name does not appear.

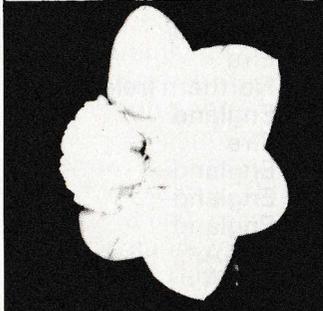
1. 'Annalong'	Mrs. S. Baxter	England
2. 'Barnwell Alice'	Mrs. E. T. King	England
3. 'Burntollet'	Mr. P. Fenn	England
4. 'Campion'	Mrs. S. Baxter	England
5. 'Canby'	Mr. C. Cochrane	Northern Ireland
6. 'Delta Wings'	Mr. M. Baxter	England
7. 'Dr. Hugh'	Mr. E. Jarman	England
8. 'Far Country'	Mr. I. Erskine	Eire
9. 'Fellowship'	Mr. J. O'Reilly	Northern Ireland
10. 'Foundling'	Mr. P. Cross	England
11. 'Golden Amber'	Mr. F. Cousins	Eire
12. 'Golden Joy'	Mr. P. Fenn	England
13. 'Goose Green'	Mr. J. Dalton	England
14. 'Gransha'	Mr. E. T. King	England
15. 'Lancelot'	Mrs. M. Winn	U.S.A.
16. 'Leslie Hill'	Mrs. J. Mackinney	U.S.A.
17. 'Lilac Charm'	Mr. P. Fenn	England
18. 'Mentor'	Mr. M. Kerr	Northern Ireland
19. 'Moontide'	Mr. J. Dalton	England
20. 'Pink Pageant'	Mr. W. Davidson	Northern Ireland
21. 'Pismo Beach'	Mrs. M. Winn	U.S.A.
22. 'Quiet Day'	Mr. W. Bell	Northern Ireland
23. 'Regal Bliss'	Mr. W. Davidson	Northern Ireland
24. 'Rimsky'	Mr. J. Morley	England
25. 'Royal Ballet'	Mr. R. Smales	England
26. 'Silver Blaze'	Mr. P. Kiernan	Eire
27. 'Sportsman'	Mrs. J. McIvor	Northern Ireland
28. 'Verdant'	Mr. M. Kerr	Northern Ireland
29. 'Vigilante'	Mr. E. T. King	England
30. 'White Star'	Mrs. M. Jones	Northern Ireland



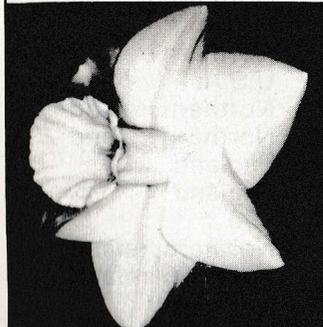
PISMO BEACH 2W-GWP



REGAL BLISS 2W-GWW



WHITE ERMINE 2W-GWW



SILENT VALLEY 1W-GWW



Engleheart Cup	1985/1986
Large Gold Medal—Harrogate	1983
Gold Medal—Harrogate	1984

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NARCISSUS MOSAIC: IS IT A PROBLEM

TOM D. THROCKMORTON, M.D., Des Moines, Iowa

I suppose the basic question to ask is: "What is daffodil mosaic?" For all too many years daffodil mosaic and the yellow stripe virus were assumed to be one and the same. About thirty years ago these two virus entities were properly separated by both serologic tests and by electron microscopy. Surprisingly, the "color break" of daffodil blooms, hitherto called "mosaic", was found to be a symptom of yellow stripe virus infection and not attributable to daffodil mosaic.

Dr. Ted Snazelle wrote well and extensively on virus diseases of daffodils in the *A.D.S. Journal* of March, 1980. Therein he spoke of the daffodil mosaic virus as being almost omnipresent among commercial daffodils but causing few if any symptoms. When present, these symptoms were confined to inconspicuous pale areas at the base of the foliage and occurring *late* in the blooming period. The flowers were normal and the growth and development of the plant were uninhibited. Thus, it doesn't sound like much to worry about, and without symptoms not really subject to roguing.

So, why am I concerned and writing about it? Chiefly because I have made a couple of observations that deserve an explanation. About three years ago, I noted that an occasional variety of toned daffodils would develop a pale streaking in the perianth segments just before collapsing into senescence. Elise Havens had also noted this. This phenomenon was first noted by us in the variety 'Raw Silk' and a little later in 'Wedding Band'. The following year I took a streaked, collapsing bloom of 'Wedding Band' to the Horticultural Department of Iowa State University where electron microscopy was available. Here, Dr. Jack Horner found rod-shaped virus particles in the bloom. Serological tests were unavailable but in all probability these represented the particles of mosaic virus.

So what? The plants were healthy, multiplied well, and this past spring yielded a plethora of the best blooms of 'Wedding Band' I have seen. Some of these became a bit streaked just before death. After putting on my thinking cap, I rationalized that many of the toned daffodils tended to reverse as the season wore on. After the white perianth segments were well tanned, and the yellow cup bleached to white, this indefinite streaking became visible. Obviously, their pigmentation was unstable and possibly subject to virus-induced irregularities.

I thought this over in the light of past experience, which now goes back thirty-five years. The first time I ever noted "daffodil mosaic" (i.e. streaking of blooms) was in a half-dozen plants of 'Spellbinder', which I had secured directly from Guy Wilson. Being cautious, I rogued them out. None of my other varieties were affected. Several years later I had a pale moon-colored seedling from Mr. Wilson that

did the same thing. Being a bit more cautious now, I transplanted this plant to an isolated area, where its blooms continued, palely streaked at the termination of their blooming period. Not worth keeping, I later put it into the trash burner.

I have always had trouble maintaining reverse bi-color varieties. I think Grant Mitsch had some worries about their ultimate health as well. But I never bothered to notice the aging blooms. This last season I have. One bloom of 'Binkie' was affected to the extent of becoming almost albino — again, late in its life. I had a newly planted bulb of 'Drumnabreeze' from a friend in another state. I was struck with admiration at the sharp color contrast between a brilliant yellow perianth and the dead-white cup — until the perianth later exhibited some white streaks most visible against the sharply colored perianth segments.

As a hybridizer, I have seen dozens of toned daffodils; many of these have highly colored coronas and I have never seen evidence of pale streaking in their perianths. Such a phenomenon in my garden seems limited to those flowers whose perianth darkens and whose cup bleaches during maturation. It is not unreasonable to assume the unstable pigment of certain varieties may be influenced if the plant becomes host to a virus.

I telephoned Elise Havens, Grant Mitsch and Murray Evans. The question was: Have you ever seen what is referred to as "daffodil mosaic" in a bloom other than one which tends to become a reverse bi-color. In each instance there was some hesitation but the answer was always "no"! Therefore, I am going to suggest that the symptomless disease, "narcissus mosaic" many cause symptomatic changes in daffodil blooms with unstable pigment. This is not a statement. This is a suggestion about which I would appreciate further information. I suspect the mosaic virus of daffodils is a "latent" or "slow" virus. I am more familiar with human virus problems. Many virus infections may lie quietly in the human for decades before becoming symptomatic. The most obvious of these is the chicken pox virus. Each of us has probably had chicken pox, from which we recovered without complications.

But have you? This virus may lie quiescent in the root of a nerve for decades, and then burst forth in years of Golden Age as "shingles", i.e. herpes zoster. This is a painful inflammation of the involved nerve and accompanied by a slow-healing skin eruption — caused by the latent virus of childhood's acute chicken pox attack. There are a number of "slow viruses" implicated in strange human disease (multiple sclerosis may well be one). The long-delayed symptoms usually develop when, for one reason or another, the host's resistance becomes lowered.

Why not with daffodils? The mosaic virus is possibly the most widely distributed of all daffodil viruses. And why not — it causes few if any problems and goes unrecognized. Whole supplies of commercial daffodils have carried the virus for many years. Probably one-third of the new introductions coming on to the

market are already carrying it. Of seventy-nine new cultivars in the R.H.S. trial garden tested in 1965, thirty-one were positive for the narcissus mosaic virus. It is spread by the simple handling of narcissus plants and blooms. If you don't believe this, just run the stems of a geranium bloom once between two fingers. The unmistakable scent of geranium will be transferred to you by such brief and simple contact.

So in conclusion, what is this all about?

1. Daffodil mosaic is a latent or slow virus. It rarely causes symptoms or interferes with the health of the infected cultivars.
2. It may cause color breaking in blooms with extremely unstable pigmentation, such as reverse bi-colors.
3. It is almost ubiquitous among daffodils.
4. It is easily spread by the handling of foliage or blooms. As Pogo, the little comic strip character, once said: "We have found the enemy and he is us".
5. There is probably not much to be alarmed about nor much sense in trying to combat this particular virus — it is lurking in every "healthy" daffodil planting.
6. I shall continue to have reversed bi-color daffodils in my garden as long as the plants remain strong, floriferous and multiply.

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Approved Changes in Recommended Schedule for Shows

Would the Secretaries of affiliated societies please note the following changes in the regulations for the Royal Mail Trophy and for Open Classes which have been approved by the N.I.D.G.

1. ROYAL MAIL TROPHY To be awarded for 6 cultivars — 3 blooms of each. Cultivars must have been raised in Ireland and commercial growers must exhibit only flowers of their own raising.
2. OPEN CLASSES Flowers shown in these classes must be either "Unregistered seedlings" or "Flowers not in commerce".

It is also recommended by the Committee of the N.I.D.G. that the restriction on an exhibitor being unable to win more than one prize in a class should not apply to "seedling" classes.

Joy which we cannot share with others is only half enjoyed.

SOME FAVOURITES FROM DIVISION SEVEN

KATE READE

A great many years ago just after the War I went home to Ballycastle, demobbed after five years in the W.R.N.S. Being rather at a loose end while waiting for a place in Art College, I started to help my mother in the garden. While cleaning a jungle behind the greenhouse we came upon a daffodil all on its own. Among every sort of weed it stood happily flowering and I thought it was the most perfect thing I had ever seen. No one knew where it had come from or what it was. It looked very like 'Sweetness', but as 'Sweetness' was only registered in 1939 and this was probably 1946, it is unlikely that it would have reached Ballycastle, and also my mother had not planted anything in that spot. The answer is still a mystery but it left me with a great love for the perfection of so many Division Seven flowers.

Though we have tried we have not been successful in breeding jonquil hybrids and envy the beautiful ones at the Havens in Oregon. Most of these have been raised by using the narcissus Jonquilla pollen on standard daffodils such as 'Aircastle'. This cross produced 'Eland' — a really beautiful show flower with saucer-shaped crowns and perfect perianths. On opening, the crowns are pale lemon, but soon fade to white. In Oregon it frequently produces three flowers per stem, but we find we are lucky if we get more than one, though sometimes I think the single pure white flower is more beautiful. Not one of the newest (it was registered in 1968) but it is still one of the best for showing.

'Oryx' is another from this cross. It has two or three flowers on tall stems and the cups turn from creamy yellow to pure white making it a 7Y-W. These are only two examples from a number of sister seedlings; all show the perfection of form for which 'Aircastle' is noted.

'Bunting' ('Narvik' x Jonquilla) is a 7Y-O and was registered in 1965. This is a really strong growing healthy plant and the tall deep green leaves are a joy to behold as well as the flowers which last a very long time. Good for show and very decorative (Note: it was still green in our field on 10th October, 1986).

We can not leave the Mitsch-Havens division sevens without some mention of the 'Binkie' Jonquilla crosses which were so successful in the sixties. Those I know best are: 'Dickcissel', 'Chat' and 'Verdin' — all 7Y-W — they brought a completely new colour to the jonquil classes and have managed to keep the original scent.

Still in America, 'Indian Maid' ('Jezebel' x Jonquilla) — 7O-R raised by Bill Pannill is another lovely flower. With its beautiful dusky colouring it is well named and has already won for us in London.

Even in the miniature field the jonquils hold their own. 'Bobby-soxer' is the most prolific bulb we grow. It is a registered Miniature 7Y-YYO raised by Alec Gray ('Rupicola' x Poeticus). It is rather a cheeky looking little flower but guaranteed to treble itself every year and grow in pots, rockeries or in the field, flowering profusely. The bulbs are round and firm.

'Flomay' 7W-WPP registered by Alec Gray is only three inches high and bred from 'Watierii' x ? Pink tinted cup and a popular flower in the U.S.A.

These are only a very few of the Division Seven hybrids now available. All are lovely and it is almost impossible to choose a favourite, but if you walk down a bed of 'Sweetness' in the evening you turn almost giddy with the wonderful scent. To see it still holding its own on the Show bench in all its clear cut beauty makes one realise once again that the newest and most expensive are not always the best. I still wonder was it 'Sweetness' we found in my mother's garden so long ago?

SOME MORE THOUGHTS ON VIRUS

A. W. CHAPPELL

After reading the article by Brian Duncan in the N.I.D.G. Newsletter, I would like to come to the defence of the New Zealand raised cultivars.

While not denying that virus is not a problem and before everyone in the U.K. rushes to dig out all their New Zealand and Australian varieties I would like to make the following comments:

I have been importing bulbs from the U.K. for a long time now and I have had to destroy a good many of them with virus. The same thing also applies to cultivars imported from Tasmania. Despite the fact that they have all had a Phytosanitary certificate they still show the symptoms of virus.

Brian states that perhaps it is the longer growing season we have here and with the aphid having a longer flying season that this could be the reason.

In the very informative article by David E. Karnstedt in our National Daffodil Society's Bulletin 1985 he estimates that less than 5% of virus is spread by insect vectors and the main cause of spreading virus is the result of man's activities when cutting blooms. Is there the possibility that in the U.K. with your colder and wetter climate that the virus symptoms are not so apparent and when re-planted in a warmer climate such as New Zealand the symptoms show up?

We have the same problem with bulbs brought in from the North Island of N.Z. where the climate is much wetter.

Cultivars such as 'Kingscourt' and 'Viking' seem to tolerate the virus up there but when transplanted to the hotter and drier parts of the South Island, especially in Canterbury, they invariably show definite virus symptoms in both leaf and flower, especially in the second year and have to be dug out.

From observations of bulbs brought in over a period of 40 years I have come to the following conclusions:

Daffodil bulbs react differently to change of soil condition and P.H. Whereas bulbs from one area will do well, others react strangely.

I used to buy a lot of bulbs from the Gisborne area. In the first year the growth would be nice and healthy and the flowers good. However in the second year they would come up positively yellow and I would dig them out. Perhaps I was too hasty and should have given them time to adjust to their new conditions.

This also applies to a lot of bulbs obtained from reputable growers — good flowers and growth the first year and disaster the second. They either do not come up at all or look very sick. I have come to the conclusion that all bulbs brought in should be lifted and dipped in a fungicide after the first year. This experience is shared by many other growers I know.

It does seem strange that most of the virus symptoms appear in bulbs recently bought in while the established stock looks clean and healthy. Last year I had to dig out a bulb for which I paid 50 dollars two years previously.

My conclusion is that bulbs may take two or three years to acclimatize no matter whether they come from another hemisphere or just another area where the soil condition is different and it is not until they have made a new bulbs that any judgment can really be made. Of course I will still dig up all bulbs which look sick and show obvious signs of virus. Some new expensive ones will be isolated to see if they recover.

It is good to see varieties such as 'Sea Dream', 'Stormy Weather', 'Springston Charm', etc. winning prizes and I can assure you there are plenty of others equally good.

Try importing a few. I am sure you will enjoy the experience of acclimatizing them and forwarding their growth.

Life is a one-way street and you're not coming back.

When success turns a person's head, he is facing failure.

MANURING DAFFODILS

Because the daffodil bulb is itself a storage of food for the growing plant, it is very difficult to give a recommendation for fertilizing daffodils. One sure test on how suitable your soil is for growing them is to weigh your bulbs before planting and then lifting them in twelve months and check for the increase in weight and/or number. While the increase is widely variable between varieties (invariably your best bulbs seems to be the slowest) 50% increase would indicate you're doing reasonably well.

The following article from the R.H.S. Daffodil and Tulip Year Book 1967 by L. W. Wallis, B.Sc., on "Fertilizer for Daffodils", although twenty years ago, treats the subject with a sound common sense that is well worth reading. Mr. Wallis was associated with the Rosewarne E.H.S.

"Fertilizers for Daffodils"

This subject is often skipped by writers on daffodil cultivation. It is difficult to gain knowledge and experience of it without careful recording of crop yields which is beyond the scope of most commercial growers and certainly cannot be done in the private garden.

The first difficulty is that daffodil bulbs contains large food reserves laid down over several years and when large sized bulbs are grown even in very poor soil they will live and flower for some time without showing deficiency symptoms. Again even over a long period they are not very responsive to fertilizer treatment and when grown in rotation in farms or gardens on well balanced, moderately fertile, soils they are not likely to show the effect of either extra nutrients or of their omission for one or two seasons. Careful recording of yields might give the grower some guidance to fertilizer treatment but it is likely that the fertilizer effect would often be masked by the effects of other cultural factors.

Before reviewing the work done on this subject by experimental workers, I must mention that the results are not plentiful and they were not easily obtained since they are derived from very protracted experiments. This is inevitable with bulb crops since before results are apparent it is necessary either to run down the food reserves in the bulb or to run down the reserves in the soil or better still to do both.

The following information on nutrients and daffodils is derived from four experiments at Rosewarne E.H.S. and one at Kirton E.H.S. In three of the Rosewarne investigations bulbs were replanted on new sites on which the same fertilizer treatments had been applied so that the effects of treatments built up in the bulbs alone. In the other two investigations the bulbs were grown in a rotation with other crops in which the fertilizer treatments were repeated on the site of each crop, so that deficiencies developed in both bulbs and the plots on which they were grown. The experiments were continued for long terms of from six to thirteen years and during that

period the cultivars were Narcissus 'Fortune', 'Actaea', 'Helios' and 'King Alfred'.

Nitrogen

Top dressings totalling 206 cwt. Sulphate of Ammonia at three times, pre-emergence, pre-flowering and post flowering, had little effect, the pre-flowering top dressing being beneficial on only one occasion. The other nutrients were in ample supply and did not limit production.

At Kirton and Rosewarne nitrogen as base dressing before planting has had a significant effect on yield in some seasons, but results do not justify more than a moderate amount of nitrogen in the pre-planting fertilizer.

Phosphate

In all experiments there have been very slight responses to phosphate. There was some slight benefit from lower levels of phosphate at Rosewarne in one instance, and it also occasionally interacted with nitrogen and potash to give enhanced yields with these nutrients. Some phosphate is usually included in bulb fertilizers to supply the small amount required and it serves an insurance against phosphate deficiency in the soil.

Potash

This has had far more effect on daffodils than other nutrients. At Rosewarne the soil was low in potash at the start of the experiments, and there was a large response to potash, which built up as the same bulbs were replanted under similar treatments throughout the investigations. Bulb size was increased by sulphate of potash at up to about 2 cwt./acre. With heavier dressings bulb size remained similar but total bulb yield increased and flower yield was proportional to the total weight of bulbs for each treatment.

Interactions between potash and nitrogen have been observed in a number of experiments, the presence of potash being essential if the full potential value is to be had from nitrogen. A long term experiment at Kirton E.H.S. has also shown the large differences in yields according to the presence or absence of potash.

Our results show that sufficient potash should be applied in preparing for bulb crops and our practice in Cornwall where bulbs are planted for 2 years on one site is to use 4-5 cwt./acre of sulphate of potash to ensure that growth is not limited by shortage of potash.

The effects of deficiencies in nutrients can be best illustrated on a series of reference plots at Rosewarne where comparisons can be made between bulbs grown on plots maintained for many years with and without the major nutrients and farmyard manure.

The effects on bulb and flower yields can be summarized as follows:

- (a) Potash was the most important nutrient.
- (b) Nitrogen was less important.
- (c) Phosphate was least important.
- (d) Complete fertilizer was usually better than farmyard manure.

- (e) Complete fertilizer + farmyard manure was usually better than complete fertilizer.

In 1965 we could see differences in flower quality and size, the order being:

- (a) Complete fertilizer with or without farmyard manure.
- (b) Potash, potash + nitrogen, potash + phosphate.
- (c) No fertilizer and nitrogen only, gave the poorest flowers.

Although colour comparisons are difficult to make we thought that the best coloured flowers came from the plots which had farmyard manure.

Recommendations

The outcome of this work is that we now use a moderate dressing 8 cwt./acre of high potash fertilizer with an extra 1-2 cwt./acre of sulphate of potash if soil analysis suggests that this is necessary. All the fertilizer is worked in before planting. On a smaller scale this would be equivalent to 3-4 oz./sq. yd. of high potash fertilizer with a little extra potash if required. There is an important difference between commercial growing and private garden practice; the commercial grower is usually dealing with fertile land which has been cropped with root crops and vegetables, it is unlikely to be deficient in any of the nutrients, and even without extra fertilizer would grow a reasonable crop of bulbs. Private gardens on the other hand are infinitely variable, the best being more fertile than farm land, the others being less fertile and often unbalanced. The unbalanced state may be due to either complete reliance on farmyard manure or compost with no supplements, or it may be the result of following too closely the recommendations of the school of horticultural writers and speakers who have tended to over-emphasize the value of bonemeal while omitting to mention potash fertilizers. In either case increased use of potash would be justified for both daffodils and most other flower crops.

Farmyard manure is not usually recommended for bulbs. The need for it depends largely on the soil type. Some soils require a certain percentage of organic matter if they are to remain fertile, without it they "cap" during wet weather, become impervious, and the crop suffers from drowning or from lack of aeration. Other soils are too light to hold sufficient moisture and they too must have more organic matter. It would be difficult and probably harmful to plant bulbs on top of manure and it is more practical to use manure on a preceding spring crop like early potatoes if the bulbs are grown in the field or the kitchen garden. In decorative parts of the garden where digging and planting must follow closely then rotten manure or some other organic matter can be used.

Other Cultural Practices may affect Fertilizer Requirement

The effect of fertility on bulb yield is influenced by other cultural practices. Our experiments were done on bulbs at constant spacing with weeds kept under control and with a varying supply of water during the growing season. If bulbs were planted closer, suffered more competition from weeds or had all the water they required

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then it is likely that they would be able to use more plant foods. The competition from weeds now-a-days can be kept to a minimum with herbicides and they should not compete with the bulb for nutrients, but it is likely that spacing of commercial crops will change to suit the industry's needs. This may necessitate a change in fertilizer practice. Irrigation of bulb crops may be improbable but certainly different growing areas with widely different climates have their own fertilizer practices which are probably based on the amount that the crop can profitably use. We can then, expect to see the level of fertilizer recommendations move with other changes in the industry and it is to be expected that though the recommendations remain similar in principle, there will be some regional variations.

Some reasons for low yields (apart from low fertility)

I mentioned previously that the effect of fertilizer treatments could easily be masked by other troubles and it should be re-emphasized that a yield difference of less than 10% due to fertilizer will not be noticed if the daffodils are suffering a loss of up to 50% for some other reasons. Causes of failures of this magnitude can include too early or too late lifting, too late planting, very deep planting and damage by inefficient hot water treatment.

If the other cultural practices are correct then the benefit from proper use of fertilizers, though not spectacular, is well worthwhile and while it may not be apparent to the eye it will be noticed in higher yields of flowers and bulbs."

IN A GARDEN

*There is peace within a garden,
A Peace so deep and calm
That when the heart is troubled,
It's like a soothing balm.*

*There's Joy within a garden,
A Joy that's always found
When tasks have been
accomplished
However hard the ground.*

*There's Life within a garden,
A Life that still goes on
Filling the empty spaces
When older plants have gone.*

*There's Glory in the garden,
At every time of year,
Spring, Summer, Autumn,
Winter,
To fill the heart with cheer.*

*So ever tend your garden,
Its beauty to increase,
For in it you'll find solace,
And in it you'll find peace.*

LADY ROSAMUND LOUGHAM

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To Change the Registration of a Daffodil Cultivar

The Royal Horticultural Society, as international Registration Authority for the genus *Narcissus*, wishes to hear of any discrepancies that have been found between the facts recorded in the Register about any daffodil cultivar and the experience of those who have grown the plants.

Breeders, registrants or other growers who have evidence that a flower has been given an incomplete colour code for example, or attributed to the wrong division, are invited to obtain a form of application to alter the registration.

The Society's *Narcissus* Classification Advisory Committee will consider applications for change; their recommendations will be reported back to applicants; agreed changes will be published in the next annual list of newly registered names.

Application forms are available from:

The International *Narcissus* Registrar
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Boyd Road, RD1 Hamilton
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The President
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LONDON LAMENT

S. McCABE

In other years this article would have been entitled "London Show Report". For 1987, equally apt titles would have been "Daffodil Disaster" or "Capital Calamity".

The distressing saga began on Friday, 24th April when the sun bathed our Province in brilliant light and the temperature soared. Flowers which had been cut a few days earlier were packed securely on the Friday night and the following morning and no thoughts of impending disaster were upon our minds when we met at Larne for the short sea trip to the mainland. Though the sun was still strong, quiet confidence abounded as we relaxed on the ferry. All were agreed that the boxes securely stowed on the vehicle deck contained some of the most magnificent blooms that had ever crossed the North Channel.

The guard's van on the London train proved to be airless and the temperature inside was over 90°F. No problem — we opened a few windows and the speed of the train through the cool night air would keep the flowers in peak condition.

Staging on the Sunday proceeded normally as the sun still shone from a cloudless sky. The glorious weather continued on Monday when the first misgivings were felt. From the staging tables arose some murmurs of discontent — "these won't last" — answered by "these are already dead". Our spirits fell in direct proportion to the size of the heap of rejects. Trade stands were readjusted with vases being moved, taken out, replaced only to be removed again. Finally it was resolved to do our best and delay the final "funerals" until the morning of the Show.

At approximately 8.30 a.m. I witnessed the sad sight of B. S. Duncan removing the 30-odd flowers he had brought to defend the Engleheart Cup. Only 4 or 5 had survived and my thoughts returned to a comment once made by Mr. W. J. Dunlop — "Daffodil growing is 11 months' anticipation and 1 month's disappointment".

Despite no Gold Medals, Engleheart Cup (or entries) and very few minor placings in the single bloom classes, as the Show progressed our spirits rose. Robin Reade and I had many "moneyless" wagers



"Woeful wilt" of Westminster!



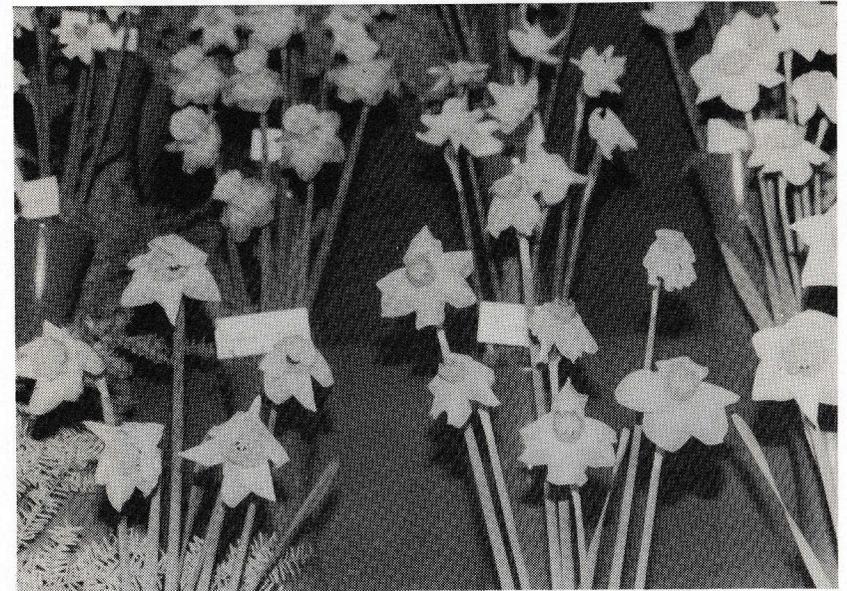
Mrs. Kate Reade still smiling despite the disaster.



Robin Reade still manages a brave face at Westminster.

as to which trade stand would have the fewest dead flowers at a certain time.

For the record, silver-gilt flora medals were awarded to both Carncairn and Rathowen. The big attraction on Rathowen's stand was 'Dorchester'. Despite being dead on its feet it refused to lie down. This is an extremely full and symmetrical 4W-P and could be the ultimate in pink doubles. Also impressive were Carncairn's 'Royal Wedding' and 'Achduart'. Specimens from this latter vase lasted longer than all others and were about the only things left alive at or on the two stands at the end of the Show. I include the human attendants in that last comment!!



"The Big Wilt"

Though the Northern Ireland contingent had a singular lack of success, we were pleased to see the high standard reached by one of our members — Eddie Jarman. His "Head Gardener" did a wonderful job in producing 'Silent Valley' (Best trumpet), 'Loch Lundie' (Best Div. II), 'Pink Pageant' (Best Div. 4) and 'Bilbo' (Best Div. 5-9). However I was not alone in wondering how G. Bell's superb 'White Star' was only awarded third prize. For condition, pose and whiteness it was streets ahead of the afore-mentioned 'Silent Valley'.

In conclusion could I ask the organisers NOT to place three Daffodil Trade Stands together as happened this year. It is not that we are not compatible (and I appreciate the difficulties under which the 1987 show was staged) but it was hard to see where one stand finished and the next one began. Also, could curtains not be provi-

ded for the windows in the roof, and could the trade stands be sited out of the direct rays of the sun?

Having said that, I forecast that the 1988 show will be held in cold, wet conditions with no sun to be seen. What will be my excuse next year?



N. 'White Star' exhibited by Mr. Geoff Bell at London Daffodil Show 1987.

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