

# Newsletter

of the  
**Northern Ireland  
Daffodil Group**



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

OCTOBER 1993  
ISSUE

## System of Classification

1. The classification of a daffodil cultivar will be that which is submitted by the person registering the cultivar, or will be based on the description and measurements submitted by such person.

2. The classification will consist of a division number and a colour code (for example, 1Y-Y, 2YW-Y, 3W-WWR, or 4Y-O).

3. The numbered divisions in which a daffodil cultivar may be placed are defined on inside back cover.

4. Measurements taken in determining between Divisions 1, 2 and 3 will be those of the flower at maturity. The length of the perianth segments is the measurement from the tip of one segment when flattened out to the base of the corona. The length of the corona is the measurement from the base of the perianth segments to the furthest margin of the corona.

5. a) The colours and equivalent code letters which may be used to describe a daffodil cultivar will be those of the flower at maturity. They are:

White or Whitish	W
Green	G
Yellow	Y
Pink	P
Orange	O
Red	R

In distinguishing Orange from Red in daffodil classification, borderline colours including and on the yellow side of RHS Orange Group 29 are said to be Orange; those including and on the purple side of Orange-Red Group 30 are Red.

b) The colour code will consist of two letters or two groups of letters separated by a hyphen: the letter(s) before the hyphen will describe the perianth segments (the "petals"); the letter(s) following the hyphen will describe the corona (the "trumpet" or "cup").

c) For purposes of description the perianth segments will be divided into three zones: outer zone, mid-zone and base; and the corona into three zones: eye zone, mid-zone and rim.

d) If the perianth segments are substantially of a single colour, a single code letter will describe them; if they are of more than one colour, either two or three code letters will be used, describing the outer zone before the mid-zone and/or base.

e) If the corona is substantially of a single colour, a single code will describe it; if it is of more than one colour, three code letters will be used, describing the eye-zone before the mid-zone and rim.

f) In double daffodils the code letter(s) before the hyphen will describe not only the perianth segments but also any extra perianth segments (being of the same colour), even if they are interspersed with the corona at the centre of the flower; the code letter(s) following the hyphen will describe the corona or the segments of the corona. Multiple letters before or after the hyphen will in doubles as in all other daffodils indicate that there is more than one colour from outer zone to base of the perianth segments or from eye zone to rim of the corona or the segments of the corona.

*Continued inside back cover*

## THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

### NEWSLETTER

VOL. 4 NO. 3

OCTOBER 1993

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*Liaison with Guy Wilson Gardens and Department of Agriculture*  
ROGER JONES, c/o Department of Agriculture.

##### *Auditor*

To be appointed.

# 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;
- (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 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;
- (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 for 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.

## 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 £5 per annum or £12.50 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-Committee

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

R. McCaw

We have now come to planting time and if you are like me you hope that the bloom from each bulb will be bigger and better than those in previous years. That is why planting takes so long. I look back to last spring and remember it as the worst season I can remember with good blooms hard to find.

Even though we had an early season all shows, including the late, were well filled. This year we had the privilege to welcome many foreign daffodil growers. I do hope they enjoyed their visit.

This year also had its sad side. As most people know our treasurer Gilbert Andrews passed away. Gilbert has been sadly missed all year. Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Andrews and family.

This year saw the introduction of "garden visits". The first at the home of John McAusland took place on possibly the best day of the year. The other took the form of a barbecue at the home of Maisie and Heather Kerr. The weather was not particularly good but the crack was great. Our thanks to John and the Kerr family for two extremely enjoyable days.

I look forward to next year's shows and meeting you all again.

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# Brian Duncan

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

J. O'REILLY

I must first apologize for a delay in the issue of this publication. This is due to a combination of factors, chiefly a heavy workload and a persistent flu which lasted almost three weeks. I am just now recovering.

The year as far as I was concerned was dominated by the sudden loss of our treasurer, Gilbert Andrews. As everyone knows Gilbert was one of the stalwarts at the Spring Show. This year it somehow was not the same. On a personal note I just now realize the amount of work Gilbert got through each year. I thank Jack Carlisle for stepping in to the breach.

Finances continue to be a problem. This is largely due to the expense of the Belfast Show and to the publication of two Newsletters. Various schemes have been put forward and let's hope they are successful. Our efforts at the Autumn Fair proved really worthwhile.

Finally I regret I will be unable to carry out any offices in the group next year. April and September are very busy months in the school calendar and I do not fancy sitting up all night in order to carry out this job. On top of that our family hopes to celebrate a big event at the end of the summer so time will be very scarce. However I will continue to give the group and its office bearers all the help I can. My thanks to all who have encouraged and assisted me in the past few years.



*Gilbert Andrews with one of his prizewinning blooms.*

## **GILBERT ANDREWS**

**JACK CARLISLE**

It was with great sorrow that members of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group learnt of the death of our treasurer, Gilbert Andrews. He died in April this year while he was working with his daffodils. Gilbert had always been an enthusiastic member of the group and while treasurer he was responsible for an unprecedented increase in our funds due to his skilful investment strategy. He was involved with running the Belfast Spring Flower Show and ensured that the interests of daffodil exhibitors were always very well catered for.

Gilbert joined the group shortly after its formation. His knowledge of gardening was extensive, but he caught "yellow fever" and became more and more involved with daffodils. He exhibited throughout Ireland and I spent a delightful weekend with him exhibiting and judging at the R.H.S.I. Show at Ballsbridge. Gilbert's flowers stood out on the showbench as he invariably produced extremely colourful flowers, especially pinks.

The group have sadly lost a great member and members have all lost a great friend. Gilbert's popularity in the group was unsurpassed and shows and meetings cannot be the same without him. We tender our sympathy to Jess and his family and we hope that they will continue with Gilbert's interest in daffodils and trust that we will see them at our future meetings.

## **YELLOW FEVER**

**NIALL WATSON**

As a baby I was vaccinated against yellow fever and every six years until 1983 I had a booster to keep me safe from this deadly disease. After living most of my life in African countries where yellow fever is endemic, my wife and I returned to N. Ireland in 1989. My six years was up and I was due for another booster but I was safe now that I was no longer in Africa, or at least I thought I was.

Soon after settling in Co. Down I met Sir Frank and Lady Harrison and we informally discussed daffodils. I think that is when I first contracted yellow fever. Its incubation period, in my case, was quite protracted and it wasn't until late 1992 that serious symptoms manifested themselves, I bought some bulbs. Not too bad you may say, but then I joined the N.I.D.G. – fatal.

In most serious conditions that are highly contagious, people with the infection are quarantined but this is not so with yellow fever. In this case previously infected people seem to delight in spreading the bug by gathering round a potential victim and giving the poor unsuspecting soul as much encouragement as possible. In no time what started as a mild complaint has passed through various stages of development. There is the drooling over the catalogue stage followed by excitedly pouring over newly acquired bulbs, the thrill of planting, the dashing out every morning "top see if they're up yet" stage until full blown fever hits during the show season. You could be forgiven for thinking that by this stage the people who had passed on the bug would be sitting back very pleased with a job well done and thinking about victims new. Not a bit of it. Now a serious campaign comes into action to ensure that no recovery is possible. Exotic blooms only seen in catalogues before are thrust upon their prey with encouraging tips on cross pollination, so committing the recipient to at least five more years until the fruits of that cross can be seen. The damage is done and I am now truly hooked and ready to pass the yellow fever bug on to another unsuspecting victim.

However, the most extraordinary thing about the whole epidemiology of yellow fever is that one never seems to find a sufferer. In fact everyone is blissfully happy to be infected and now I understand why.

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## RAIN, DAFFODILS AND GOOD FRIENDS AN ENGLISH-IRISH DIARY

by PROFESSOR DR. GERHARD BAHNERT, DRESDEN, GERMANY

When a prisoner gets free after long years of imprisonment, he is overwhelmed by its feelings and a bit blind by sunlight and colours and the busy world suddenly around him. My wife Ursula and I felt a bit like this when we were on our first journey to England in April 1991 to see the R.H.S. Daffodil Show in London, the show of the Daffodil Society at Knowle near Solihull and to look around at Orchard House, Letty Green, by the very kind invitation of Barbara Abel Smith. Having spent the best years of our adult, active life under Soviet and communist oppression we are now, as pensioners, finally free. The days in South-East England were like a fairy-tale. Home again, when the impressions slowly settled down we knew that we had to repeat our adventure! We had already received invitations to come to Northern Ireland at the trade stand of Brian Duncan and from Kate Reade. Barbara Abel Smith and her housekeeper Anna Dapson with husband Robert kindly urged us in their letters to travel again to the British Isles.

So we decided to make a second journey at the show-time 1993. The R.H.S. Show in London was to take place on the 20th and 21st of April and the Spring Flower Garden Festival in Belfast immediately afterwards on the 24th and 25th. These fitted in very well.

In 1985 I had begun to collect all kinds of information and materials on daffodils from all over the world in order to make the very first book on our favourite flower in the German language. I then had written to all important societies and breeders and found them very kind and helpful. A broad correspondence had developed and because of this many "daffodil personalities" were well known to me. It had been a great pleasure at our first journey 1991 to become personally acquainted with some of them and we looked forward to seeing more good friends in April 1993.

So we left our house and garden in the middle of April after a long, cold winter when just a few early daffodils had opened their buds nearly three weeks later. Our car brought us to Aachen, a pretty town at the western border of Germany, where we stayed some days with friends. I had a meeting on daffodils with the Aachen section of the German Perennial Society, and of course a trip to the nearby Eifel mountains to look for wild daffodils. This is the north-

eastern most occurrence of *N. pseudonarcissus* on the European Continent. We found lots of them not in open meadows as I had expected, but on a slope under hazel trees.

**Monday, April 19th**

We travelled comfortably by railway for three hours through Belgium from Aachen to Ostende, took a jetfoil to cross the Channel in fine weather and arrived at Victoria Station in London at 1330 hrs. A taxi brought us to Vincent Square. We entered the New Show Hall by the side gate along with the nurserymen and their helpers, who hurried to and fro bringing and staging their plants and flowers.

Soon we found the trade stand of Barbara Abel Smith, where we shook hands and met her assistants, the Baxters, Mary Andersen and Robert Dapson who had visited us with his wife Anna last year in Dresden. Our luggage remained there and we started to look around for Betty and Brian Duncan and other daffodil breeders. We quickly found the Duncan's amidst vases, daffodils and a group of people, who were unknown to us at this moment, in time with one exception, Sandy McCabe. We thanked them for the invitation and asked whether our flight tickets were "OK". We learnt that the pretty young lady was Karen Duncan. We strolled off feeling that we were not needed at that moment and we were only disturbing the staging of the flower stand.

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We met Ron Scamp, who had sent his fine catalogue to Dresden, and we congratulated him on his breeding successes. Shortly afterwards we met his uncle Dan du Plessis, and made the acquaintance of "Hofflands Daffodils", John and Rosemary Pearson. We missed the stands of Clive Postles and Kate Reade, but we well understood the reasons: terrible bad weather, that spoilt most daffodils in the fields and the serious personal problems concerning Robin's health.

An hour later we were told, that Barbara Abel Smith's work has been finished for the day and it was time to drive "home" to Orchard House, Letty Green. We understood well the stress for driver Robert to steer the large Volvo safely northwards through the traffic jams of London in the rush hour, but happily arrived our "headquarters", kindly greeted by Anna Dapson and Muffin, Barbara's well fed dog. Our sleeping room was again decorated with a large bunch of daffodils, and late in the evening we fell into our bed very tired from this long day.

**Tuesday, April 20th**

Opening day of the R.H.S. Daffodil Show! Robert brought Barbara and us back to the Show Hall, where all exhibitors put last touches to their stands and the amateurs placed their vases. What a colourful spectacle of spring flowers! What an abundance of plants from primulas to fritillarias and from miniature daffodils to corydalises. Besides daffodils rhododendrons were the main subjects of the show. There were species and hybrids we never saw before. Two years ago we were impressed in the same way by the Camellias.

Soon Barbara invited us in the name of the R.H.S. to a lunch held in an upper floor of the show building. The dining room was crowded with daffodil enthusiasts, but eventually we found seats at a long table. At the opposite side of this table sat a group of members of the American Daffodil Society who provided me with a bit of fun at this English meal, as I had the greatest difficulty understanding a little of the spoken American English. After this pleasant lunch we found the Show Hall crowded with visitors. We asked Barbara, when we should be back at her stand in the afternoon to drive home to Letty Green, and then we had time enough to look around in the Hall.

The daffodil trade stands were marvellous, and none of the visitors could guess the meteorological problems for the exhibitors the weeks before. At Barbara Abel Smith's stand pink and other wonderful delicate colours dominated as usual. I noted her 'Royal

Princess' with its fine red rim and the not quite new but very nice 'Birchill'. Hofflands Daffodils impressed us with John Pearson's beautiful 'Camelot' x 'Daydream' – children 'Altun Ha' and the new 'Goffs Caye'. We were very impressed by Brian Duncan's nearly all red cultivars like 'Dawn Run' and the all whites with deep pink banded crowns like 'Soprano' or the new 'Sandy Cove'.

The finest flower? Excuse me, please, all were beautiful, but I did not note all the winning blooms. The method of finding out the best one was most interesting for me! In Germany there are no comparable flower shows with so many entries and such fierce competition. Therefore the show as a whole was our main concern. Daffodils are our favourite garden flowers in the spring, and the wonderful shows on the British Isles give us the unique chance to see the many varieties, that are offered in the catalogues actually growing, and to compare the all whites or the different yellow reds, etc. in their exhibition classes.

The afternoon saw Ursula and me walking about in the streets of London between Vincent Square, Victoria Station and the Buckingham Palace. It was a warm sunny day and we were astonished at the Londoners lying and sitting with their children on the lawns of St. James' Park. This manner of using the parks of a town is not yet common in Dresden with a few exceptions. Colourful tulip beds fascinated us – marvellous colour combinations of Darwin-Tulips and Pansies, Forget-Me-Nots and Cheiranthuses made a fantastic display.

At 7 p.m. we were home again at Orchard House and found time to look at Barbara's daffodils. Most of them were over or terribly damaged by rain. A late 3Y-R attracted our attention. A bed of 'Red Snapper' stood quite fresh and healthy.

### **Wednesday, April 21st**

Last breakfast in the large kitchen of Orchard House. This evening we shall fly to Belfast. Again we drove to London, taking with us that part of our luggage which we would need in Northern Ireland. In the Show Hall we brought the suitcase and bags to Brian Duncan's stand, where we left it. We told Brian that we should follow him in the late afternoon to get safely to Heathrow airport and finally to his home at Omagh. One of the American guests seemed to have the same idea. A bit later we learnt that she was Estella Evans, the wife of the late Murray Evans from Oregon.

Walking around the show I was suddenly greeted by Don Barnes. At first sight I did not recognise him. We had only once shook hands

at the Daffodil Society's Show at Knowle, 1991. Then he was sitting and very busy as secretary in a dark corner of the Arden School, where the show took place. We hoped to meet again, regretfully we did not.

The rest of this warm and sunny day belonged to London! We boarded a sightseeing bus at Victoria Station and had a very pleasant trip to many interesting and famous points of the large town. It was fine on the open upper platform and were kept well informed by headphones switched to clearly spoken German.

After a fine lunch in the early afternoon we walked to Buckingham Palace and then slowly back to Vincent Square through the crowded and beautiful St. James' Park. The show had ended and it was interesting for us to observe the dismantling the many stands and the many women with large bunches of exhibition flowers and wonderful branches of rhododendrons, that were all now freely available.

At last we took leave of our dear English hostess, Barbara Abel Smith for a few days and followed Betty Duncan, some of her helpers and Estella Evans to a taxi for Heathrow – the London airport. Brian was already away to the hotel, where the Duncans had been, and we all met at Heathrow. Our tickets were for the flight at 21.20 hrs. by British Midlands and we were pleased when Brian managed to change to a plane two hours earlier. We hurriedly checked-in, got rid of our luggage and went on board the aeroplane before it started at 19.30 hrs.

While waiting in a queue in front of the office of our airline when they were changing our tickets we noticed that a large group of daffodil enthusiasts was on its way to Northern Ireland. Not only the Irish breeders with their helpers but all the Americans that we had met at lunch in the R.H.S. Show building the day before. They were Estella Evans with her niece Diane Tribe, Dorothy Sable, Mary Lou Gripshover, Ruth Pardue and Rich and Kitty Frank – all daffodil breeders and leading members of the A.D.S.

A large jet transported us to Belfast and I understand that this line was flown several times each day. It was dinner time and we were served a fine meal. This we had not expected on such a short inland flight of eighty minutes. The eating and drinking occupied the flight time. We were only a few minutes in the air, when dark grey layers of clouds prevented any glimpse to the earth. Did we fly in bad weather? When we left the Aldergrove airport building, we stood in pouring rain.

Brian opened his umbrella and went to fetch his car. So did Betty. Our group got in and then we were driven safely through the dark cold and rainy night the long way to Omagh. The day ended in Duncan's comfortable home late in the evening.

#### **Thursday, April 22nd**

We had a good night and met next morning downstairs in the kitchen at the breakfast table. We had a merry breakfast with much laughter when Dorothy used her fingers to help me to understand her words (in Texas dialect) for English numbers.

This day was a recreation day. Weather was ugly, cold, windy with dark clouds and rain-showers. What a contrast to warm and sunny London yesterday! And this cold and wet weather accompanied us on most of our visit to Northern Ireland.

Duncan's guests were distributed over house, daffodil fields and garden. There were comfortable furnished rooms where one could sit in armchairs to talk or look at daffodil literature. We admired the wonderful spacious conservatory, well equipped with a lot of different plants and comfortable sitting accommodation. Some pulled on rainproof clothing and boots and went outside to the daffodils. As bad as the weather was it had one advantage our group remained together and there was time to talk and to become more and more acquainted with one another. At the end of the day we all were good friends.

In the evening we had a dinner at the Mellon Country Inn a few miles out of Omagh in the direction of Londonderry. We shall never forget this wonderful event. Outside it was dark, cold and rainy and we assembled at first in the room left of the entrance, where a blazing fire created a pleasant mood. There were small tables as in a Vienna coffee house. The innkeeper greeted his guests, and whilst we studied the menu sherry or beer was served. I wondered how we should manage to eat from these small tables? I need not have worried, as we were guided into a second room after a short time. There was a table laid for the nine of us. It was a bit cold at first, but when we were sitting a while, the delicious dishes had been served, and we were eating, drinking and chatting, we felt quite comfortable. In a short toast I tried to express Ursula's and my deep gratitude to Betty and Brian for inviting us to Northern Ireland and to be their personal guests so that we had the opportunity to participate in such a wonderful evening near the north-west edge of Europe and to become good friends with other daffodil enthusiasts.

#### **Friday, April 23rd**

Dark grey clouds and showers changing quickly with a bit sunshine and spots of blue sky and a strong cold wind, were the fashion the day before the Belfast Show. Brian, assisted by Mary Lou and Ruth, was busy getting his flowers ready. They were working the whole forenoon in the shed behind the house, and we had a wonderful opportunity to view the magnificent bunches of flowers quite undisturbed. What a display of strong colours! Behind the shed are Brian's fields. Ursula and I walked through the daffodil beds very carefully so as to avoid sliding in the wet muddy soil. What a pity that so many blooms were spoilt by the incessant rain.

After the lunch Brian, Ruth and Mary Lou with most of the flowers to Belfast to prepare the staging. The show was to begin next day 2 p.m. Betty and Dorothy had to do something at Omagh and we both joined them. It was high time for us to look at a North Irish country town. In the centre we left Betty and Dorothy for a walk. We went a few streets up and down, viewed buildings, traffic, shops and passengers, visited a supermarket and had the impression, that all seemed to look a bit plainer than in small towns in Southeast England. People seemed not to be too wealthy. May be the grey weather contributed to this picture, although the rain had ceased and a few sunrays peered more often through the racing clouds. We had a short break in the church at the upper end of High Street, looked at the other with the unequal spires, walked along the river and had suddenly the problem of finding home. We realised that we had not noted the way carefully when we drove to Omagh while chatting in Betty's car. But the sun helped us to find the proper direction to Ballynahatty Road, and asking twice, if our way was right, we suddenly saw the daffodil fields lying left at the foot of the hill down which we just walked.

The evening brought a lottery: Brian would have to start tomorrow morning early at 6 o'clock to get his flowers ready for the show. Four people had to drive with him. The rest could follow later on in Betty's car. Mary Lou and Ruth would surely accompany him who were the two others? Diane Tribe raised her hand, but Betty quickly made tickets, and Estella, Diane, Ursula and I had to test our luck. Ursula and I drew the "midnight car".

#### **Saturday, 24th April**

Brian knocked at the door at 6 a.m. we had our fine breakfast, as always ending with the good Irish cheese, and at 7 o'clock we started. I had the honour of sitting beside Brian, the car driver, and

behind us were Mary Lou, Ruth and Ursula. It was a wonderful morning. The sky was nearly overcast, but the clouds were high and thin and the closer we approached Belfast, the more the sunbeams came through. Hardly any traffic was on the road on this cool Saturday morning. The beautiful Irish landscape with its small hills, the endless undulations of the road, deep green meadows and pastures and lots of yellow blooming bushes of broom or a similar leguminose created again and again very pretty views. We notice hardly any ploughed ground or fields with grains, potatoes or vegetables. Where do Irishmen grow their food? We also missed villages and small towns along the road during the two hours ride to Belfast. Rows of trees and shrubs seemed to be the side scenes in this country, which is probably thinly populated compared to Middle Europe.

At last we arrived in Belfast, where the Spring Flower Garden Festival took place in the Maysfield Leisure Centre not far from the railway station. The show was to be opened at 2 p.m., so we had time enough for preparation, and to look around before the judging at 10.30 a.m. The first impression in the large hall – it was terribly cold, and only walking around kept us a bit warm. Ursula and I were asked if we would help as stewards whilst judging. Of course we would without knowing at the time, what stewards of a show had to do. We got our badges and written instructions. I read the text but had to confess, that I did not understand all my duties, as in Germany there are no similar shows and customs.

We gratefully accepted the invitation of the Chairman and the members of the Parks Committee to morning coffee and lunch in the restaurant area of the Leisure Centre. The show hall became more and more crowded with exhibitors and their crews. We met Kate Reade and her daughter Patricia and accepted with pleasure her invitation to Carncairn Grange for the next day. Later on we met the owners of Ballydorn Daffodil Farm, Sir Frank and Lady Harrison. Home again in Germany I remarked with regret that I forgot to ask our friends to introduce us to the fourth of the famous Northern Irish daffodil growers – the Campbells of Tyrone Daffodils. Evidently I had got a bit confused as a result of so many new impressions, talks in a foreign language and surrounded by many well known people.

At coffee time at 10 a.m. Betty Duncan with Dorothy, Estella and Diane had arrived. So our party from Omagh was complete and we partook of coffee and biscuits in order to warm up. Down in the hall again we were astonished at the wide range of exhibits from

daffodils, alpines and primulas to wine and children's works of art. Judging began and we observed closely the work of the three judges for Open Classes and were much astonished at the tiny faults of otherwise marvellous flowers that were reason not to give them prizes. The American guest judges seemed to us to be "overcritical". We as great daffodil lovers but laymen at judging often had distributed the prizes otherways. Our interesting observations were disturbed suddenly by a steward asking us whether we would help him a bit. He showed us how to fix the prize stickers to the upwardly turned entry cards and soon we were so busy that we had no more time to study the judging.

As at the show in London a few days before I made no notes about the prize winning breeders and flowers. We only remember that 'Altun Ha' was the best of the large crowned yellow-whites and that we were fascinated by 'Rose Gold' 1Y-P. If I am not wrong, 'Ethos' 1Y-Y, was the best bloom of the show, but the show reporters will tell us these things in detail and exactly.

12.30 was lunch time. A splendid self-service buffet offered excellent dishes and while busy eating with our "Omagh group" Brian came to me and told me that I was expected to say a few words to the present members of the Belfast Parks Committee. No amount of protesting helped me, but I would need a bit of time to reflect on what to say. The chairman gave me the word.

I tried to explain how happy we were to be here, coming from the eastern part of Germany and imprisoned so long within the frontiers of the so-called German Democratic Republic I thanked the Belfast Parks Committee. I said how we were pleased to experience the Show, to become friends with other daffodil enthusiasts and to be invited to participate in this fine lunch.

A member of the Festival Officials at our table, Mrs. H. Hughes, proved to be a German, married to an Irishman. Helga invited Ursula and me kindly to her house and garden for a coffee. We agreed with pleasure and were driven to Holywood at the edge of Belfast. It was situated at a hillside a bit above the town. The weather had improved. We could admire her house and garden in sunshine. It was a welcome break for us from the permanent conversation in English and to be able to speak German this afternoon.

At 5 p.m. we were back at the Show building, where Brian waited for us to bring us to Ballance House near Glenavy, where the North Irish Daffodil Group would hold the Belfast Show dinner that night. Hon. Secretary, John O'Reilly had kindly invited both of us to this

event. Ursula and I made a last walk through the Show and then got in Brian's car. We had plenty of time to make a roundabout way. Our route led at first out of the Belfast valley, and from the hills west of the large town we enjoyed a wonderful view over the bay. The mountain ridge north of it, the town and its suburbs situated on the gently ascending hillsides. Glenavy is situated at the opposite slope of the hills west of Belfast, which fall down in the large Lough Neagh, and from our goal, Ballance House, we had the endless seeming surface of Ireland's largest lake to our feet.

The Ballance House, a solitary farmhouse 2 miles from Glenavy village is the place where a celebrated New Zealand Prime Minister, John Ballance, was born 1839. Fallen into ruins it has been restored since 1988 and serves now as a centre for fostering and encouraging North Irish-New Zealand links. The magnificent furnished parlour and other rooms of the farmhouse are used as a museum and for exhibitions, and a large reconstructed barn as a Tea Barn, where cold and warm dishes are served too. We were told, that the N.I.D.G. uses this barn for meetings and festival events for the last few years.

At first we of course were guided through the John Ballance museum and exhibition and gathered then in the Tea Barn for the Show dinner. We have fond memories of this evening in the plain but very skilfully restored barn. A wonderful atmosphere developed between the daffodil enthusiasts. We enjoyed well prepared dishes and wine and had pleasant conversation. Brian had, this time let me know in good time, that the foreign guests of the N.I.D.G. were expected to deliver an address. So we heard amusing stories from the American guests and I too said my words of thanks, better prepared now than at noon. A New Zealander "emerged" out of the happy crowd of daffodilians, and I was much astonished, when Peter Irwin of Titahi Bay in his speech addressed me, bringing greetings from Reg Cull, a breeder in Foxton, with whom I have a correspondence for many years. Sir Frank Harrison in his speech found words of praise about my daffodil book as being well written by an engineer. I have fond recollection of friendly and interesting conversation with Lady Patricia and himself. What a pity that there was not sufficient time left to have a short look at Ballydorn Bulb Farm!

Late at night we left Ballance House to drive home the long way to Omagh after bringing Dorothy Sable to a small hotel near Aldergrove airport and bidding her good-bye.

### **Sunday, 25th April**

In the morning no rain, only a few clouds in the sky! Today Betty would be so kind as to bring some of the American guests, Ursula and met to Kate and Robin Reade at Broughshane. Before lunch I tried to help Brian in his seedlings beds. While he marked his best ones for growing on I read him the pedigrees out of his breeding lists. What a quantity of new, yet unnamed daffodils!

Originally we intended to go to Broughshane at noon, but it was not until 4 p.m. we said a sad good-bye to Brian, thanking him and Betty so much for their generous hospitality and took a last photo of hosts and guests, we took leave of Mary Lou Gripshover and got in Betty's car. We, by that I mean Estella Evans, Diane Tribe, Ursula, Betty and me. The sky had meanwhile become overcast, and on our way to Ballymena, this time north around Lough Neagh, it again began to rain. When we arrived at Sandy McCabe's house it poured so strongly, that I declined to get out of the car to have a look at Sandy's daffodils. Ruth Pardue here joined our crew for Carncairn Daffodils and in streaming rain we arrived late in the afternoon. Carncairn Grange is on the top of the flat hill, on the slope of which were the Reade's daffodils fields.

Kate gave a hearty welcome to us and while Ursula and I entered Carncairn Grange with our baggage – we intended to stay here one night – the American ladies put on boots to look at the daffodils in spite of rain, cold wind and dirty soil everywhere outside the house.

It was a Sunday, and Kate's and Robin's children with grandchildren and dogs were there and the fine veranda-like room was well crowded around Robin in his wheelchair, whom we saluted cordially. Betty, Ruth, Estella and Diane took leave after an hour and we stayed behind waving in the rain. The following evening was filled with pleasant conversation with Kate, Robin and their children and children-in-law. We became well acquainted with the whole wonderful family. Admiring the beautiful paintings in all rooms we realized that a great artist here was breeding exquisite daffodils.

### **Monday, 26th April**

We had a very good night, a fine breakfast and a very pleasant chat with Kate, Robin, daughter Patsy and son-in-law James, before we went outdoors into the cold and rainy daffodil world. Kate guided us and we got to know John Maybin, her skilful helper, who had already assisted Guy Wilson here at Broughshane thirty years ago. I asked if we could have a look at the great breeder's house, but heard that a new owner was just about to remove it. We regretted that much.

The daffodil beds as a whole looked as sad and rain damaged as Brian Duncan's and Barbara Abel Smith's, but a lot of late cultivars stood up well. I was particularly surprised how well some triandrus- and jonquil-hybrids looked undisturbed into this grey sky.

Before noon Patsy kindly drove us to Aldergrove. We took leave of Kate and Robin, thanking them for having invited us so friendly and wishing them and the whole family the best. Before leaving the Carncairn area we had a look into Carncairn Lodge, the historic old family seat, that was just under careful and skilful reconstruction by one of the Reade's sons. Then we left this memorable village which saw three great daffodil breeders in this century: Guy Wilson, William Dunlop and now Kate Reade. In rain we reached the Belfast airport, said good-bye to Patricia, took our luggage, and our short but unforgettable visit to Northern Ireland came to its end.

British Midlands Airways brought us safely to Heathrow, and we were surprised, when again a complete dinner had been served at lunch time during this short flight. At the exit of the airport building Anna and Robert Dapson stood waiting for us to bring us "home" to Orchard House in Barbara Abel Smith's car. The sky was grey like beyond the Irish Sea and a cold wind was blowing, but it did not rain. Not far from Letty Green we were shown a small open wood, the ground of which was densely covered with bluebells (*Scilla nonscripta*).

At the dining table in the evening we gave our dear hostess a long report about our adventures in Northern Ireland.

#### **Tuesday, 27th April**

We had planned to pay a short visit to Michael and Sandra Baxter, the other helpers of Barbara, to look at their daffodils. But now we were told the flowers were so spoilt by rain that it would be nonsense to go there. Instead of that Robert drove us to the small country town of Ware, where we looked around in a large Dutch garden centre, and in the streets with their pretty English architecture. Weather had improved, so that I was able to take a few photos in sunshine.

In the afternoon Ursula and I walked a bit sadly through Letty Green, around Orchard House and through Barbara's daffodil beds, knowing that we most probably never would return here, where we enjoyed a great and hearty hospitality and had become friends with wonderful people.

#### **Wednesday, April 28th**

After breakfast we took leave of Barbara Abel Smith, thanked her

cordially for all she had done for us and wished her good health for the years to come. Anna and Robert drove us to Hatfield railway station, where we got the train for London. At noon we arrived at Moorgate and stood with our luggage, having left the exit, suddenly and quite unexpectedly amidst the roaring traffic of London. A taxi brought us to Victoria Station where our train to Dover would leave at 13.30 hrs.

Happily we read "Jetfoil Check-In" over an office and hoped to get rid of our baggage. But we were turned away "Jetfoil is cancelled because of storms over the Channel". One told us that we had to use the large ferry to Calais and that a bus would then bring us to Ostende to our train to Aachen. The end was that we reached Aachen not before 10 p.m. but only by 2.30 a.m. at night and had to let our poor hosts out of their beds to let us in.

#### **Thursday, April 29th**

The greatest surprise came in the morning – the breakfast table was laid on the terrace in the open garden. It was very warm like the summer and the sun shone out of a cloudless sky! Our friends told us, that in Germany there had been abnormally warm weather since our departure to England ten days ago. Growth and nature had literally "exploded" and now all looked like at the end of May.

At noon we loaded our dear "Volkswagen", said good-bye, and drove home through a summerlike landscape.

At home in Dresden there were nearly no daffodil flowers to be seen – only a few of 'Portrush' and of 'Syracuse' that were not sunburnt. Our eldest son reported, that all our daffodils had been sunburnt within two or three days after opening their buds. We never before experienced such hot weather at daffodil time.

One year without daffodils! In their "homelands" destroyed by heavy rains and storms and here by a heatwave.

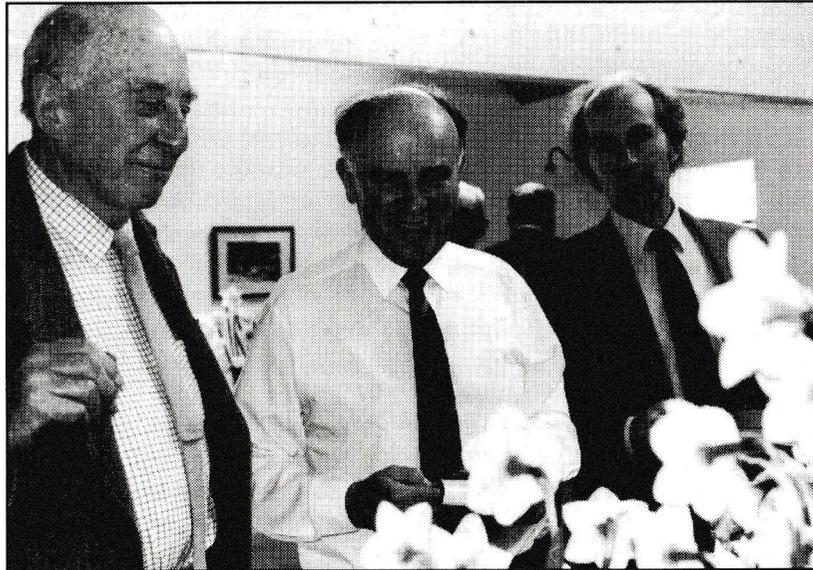
But: Next spring will surely come, and our dear spring flowers will be flowering again.

## **NORTHERN IRELAND SHOWS**

### **N.I.D.G. Early Show**

This was held at headquarters – The John Ballance House, Glenavy. Because of the early season the benches were filled to capacity and some of the planned classes had to be sub-divided. A new class for 7 Blooms staged in one vase was introduced. Brian Duncan won this class with a mixed vase of his own raising. John O'Reilly was second with seven 'Lennymore's'. The prizes were well

spread out in the Single Bloom Classes. In these 'White Ermine', 'Chief Inspector', 'Loch Hope', 'Gold Convention' and 'Bryanston' caught the eye. J. O'Reilly's 'Lighthouse' came out on top. Niall Watson won the prize for most points in the Novice Section while Brian Duncan won the Trophy for most points overall.



*The Early Show at Ballance House – Brian Duncan counting the “nicks”.*  
(Photo: Dr. D. Turbitt)

### Hillsborough

This took place the week following the Early Show. In spite of the inclement weather there was a good turnout of both exhibitors and visitors. The 12 Bloom class was a close run thing between Sam Jordan and Richard McCaw. Sam got the verdict with a smooth collection containing 'Jocelyn Theyer' (Best Division 3), 'Crackington' (Best Division 4), 'April Love' and 'Achduart'. Richard's second place entry contained good examples of 'Comal' and 'Bryanston'. **Derrick Turbitt** came all the way from Coleraine to scoop **Best Divisions 5-9** with a nicely coloured 'Lilac Charm'. Best Bloom in Show went to 'Bryanston' staged by Richard McCaw in the Single Bloom Class. Other noteworthy vases in the Senior Classes were 'Sportsman' (Diane Bell) and 'Evesham' (S. Jordan). In the Intermediate Classes Robbie Curry won the 9 Bloom Class as well as most points. Best Bloom in this Section was another 'Jocelyn Theyer' staged by Sam

Jordan. In the Novice Section Robbie Curry took the 6 Bloom Class beating James Woods and B. Patton. Best Bloom in the Section was 'Capisco' staged by Niall Watson. I liked the 'Broomhill' belonging to James Woods. Most points went to James – a terrific achievement from a 15-year-old. Well done James! Dahlia enthusiast John Robinson won Class IV with a beautiful 4Y-Y.

Ballydorn monopolized the Open Section in which their 92/9 WGG WY was Best Bloom.

### Ballymena Horticultural Society

The above Society held their spring Show in the Community Centre, Broughshane. Daffodils were in abundance and all the classes were well filled. In this Show amateurs compete against the professionals. This seems to deter some amateurs but those who chose to compete more than hold their own. Michael Ward from Dublin won the 12 Bloom Class with a well balanced collection. In his group 'Stanway', 'Evesham', 'Purbeck' and 'Val d'Incles' caught the eye. Richard McCaw took second place. In his group were 'Benvoy', 'Golden Vale' and 'Tall Ships' – the latter very smooth if not so well contrasted. Ian Erskine was third – his group containing good specimens of 'Santa Rosa' and 'State Express'. In the 6 x 3 Class Carncairn were first and second. Fred Power made a welcome return to the Show scene and took third spot. In Carncairn's entries 'Bailey', 'Skerry', and 'Portnogolan' caught the eye. There were only two entries in the American Class but the winning entry from Michael Ward had five specimens of 'Molten Lava', 'Gold Charm', 'Lemin Brook' and 'Cool Crystal'.

The Single Bloom Classes were well distributed with all contestants getting their share. Winning blooms were 'Strines', 'Tuesdays Child', 'Midas Touch', 'White Star', 'Croila', 'Chelsea Girl', 'Evesham' and 'Crackington'. Ballydorn won the Seedling Class with 85/2YO/10. I liked Maurice Kerr's seedling pink rim in second place. In the Novice Classes Robbie Currie took the award for most points. His 6 Bloom Winning Group contained excellent 'Crackington', 'Magna Carta' and 'Stourbridge'. Niall Watson had a good 'Red Ember' in his second place entry. Other winning entries of Robbie's were 'Purbeck', 'Pink Paradise' and 'Backchat' while Niall won with 'High Society' and 'Capisco'. I liked Rab Sloan's 'Beige Beauty'.

Ballymena hosted the N.I.D.G. Silver Thread Award. In this class Derrick Turbitt came out on top ahead of R. McCaw and J. O'Reilly. Derrick's winning entry contained 'Lilac Charm' and 'Merlin'.

### Coleraine Horticultural Society

The main class – the 9 Bloom was won yet again by Derrick Turbitt. His entry contained good 'Achduart', 'Doctor Hugh', 'Silk Cut' and 'Mentor'. The Chronicle Cup for the 3 Bloom Classes was won by William Dallas. Derrick Turbitt won the Points Cup. Frank Herbison won the Points cup in the Intermediate Section. His bloom of 'Golden Pond' (3YY) was Best Bloom in the Section as well as Best Bloom in the Show. Gordon Turner from Limavady won the Harrison Cup for the Best Novice. Because of the early season entries overall were slightly down but this was more than made up for by the influx of new competitors in the Intermediate and Novice Classes. I hope this trend continues as Coleraine have a wonderful venue at the University. This Show is always well organized by Derrick and his team and deserves our support.

### Enniskillen Horticultural Society

As usual this Show attracted entries from far and wide. The Open Section saw a keen tussle between Sam Dukelow and Ballydorn. Best Bloom in the Section went to a Ballydorn seedling 86/3W-9GYO/6/14. Other blooms of note were Sam's 87/8/G (1YY) and Ballydorn's 82/2YO/6/9 which is to be named 'Barley Wine'. The class for 6 Blooms of Irish Raised was won by John Ennis – his entry containing an excellent 'Fragrant Rose'. The Senior Section saw a keen tussle between Richard McCaw, George Jordan and Sam Dukelow. Both the 9 Bloom Class and the points resulted in the same order. Richard's best were 'Doctor Hugh', 'Purbeck' and 'Woodland Star' and George's were 'Evesham' and 'Gold Convention'. Other blooms of note were 'Grosvenor' and 'Badbury Rings'. Richard's 'Purbeck' was Best Bloom.

### City of Belfast Spring Show

The earliness of the season provided us with an extremely wide variety of cultivars from every division. This year we were pleased to welcome a group of visitors from abroad. These were Professor Gerhard Bahnert and his wife Ursula from Germany, Mary Lou Gripshover, Ruth Pardue, Diane Tribe, Estella Evans (widow of the late Murray Evans), Richard and Kitty Frank and Dottie Sable all from the United States, and Peter Irwin from New Zealand. We all hope they enjoyed their visit and will return in the not too distant future. The above mentioned enthusiasts were cajoled into judging many of the classes and a good job they made of it.

In the Championship of Ireland Brian Duncan retained the Richardson Cup. In his group were outstanding 'Silverwood' (Best



*Pictured at Belfast Show (left to right sitting): Professor and Mrs. Ursula Bahnert, Mrs. Mary Lou Gripshover, Mrs. Ruth Pardue, Mrs. Dottie Sable, Mrs. Estella Evans, Mrs. Diane Tribe.  
Standing at rear: Mrs. Kitty and Dick Frank.*

*(Photo: Dr. D. Turbitt)*

Division 3), 'Garden News' (D.1380 (2WYP), and 'Soprano'. Our leading amateur Sandy McCabe took second place with fine specimens of 'Moralee', 'Kebaya' and S3 (2YR). The last mentioned appeared in most of Sandy's winning collections. In third place were Carncairn. Their entry contained 3/19/92 a 3YYR which was awarded the Medal for Best Seedling.

The Royal Mail Trophy for 6 Irish Raised was won by Sandy McCabe – his entry containing good 'Ringleader', 'Patabundy' and 'Vernal Prince' in addition to the ubiquitous S3. Brian Duncan's second place entry had eye-catching vases of 'Pink Pageant', 'Dawn Run' and 'Cosmic Dance'.

The Roesé Bowl for American Raised went to Carncairn. 'Impala', 'Stratosphere' and 'Pay Day' caught the eye in their entry.

The Guy Wilson Trophy also went to Brian Duncan. His entry contained 5 specimens of 'Cool Crystal', 'Birthday Girl' and 'Sextant'. Brian also monopolized the 3 Bloom Classes in the Open. Brian used his "pinks" to good advantage chief of which were 'Ethereal Beauty', 'Yoshiko' and of course 'Soprano'. This cultivar was in

many winning entries and ended up as Best Division 2 and Best in Show. The Single Bloom Classes provided him with more competition. His winners were 'Asante', 'Serena Beach' (Best Division 4), 'Elfin Gold' and 'Soprano'. Michael Ward scored with 'Nether Barr' and 'Triple Crown'. Sandy McCabe won the 2Y-R Class with S2 and 'Delta Flight' won for your editor. Derrick Turbitt and Sam Dukelow won the Two Miniature Classes with 'Sun Disc'.

Richard McCaw got the verdict in the Amateur Championship ahead of J. O'Reilly and Maurice Kerr. The first placed entry contained fine specimens of 'Lisnamulligan', 'Ringleader' and some Ballydorn seedlings. In second place were good 'Sherborne', 'Val d'Incles' and 'June Lake'. Maurice Kerr easily won the Bloomer and Duncan Cups for Points. Maurice's best vases were of 'Amber Castle', 'Stratosphere', 'Cyros', 'Triple Crown', 'Bunclody' and a beautiful 2W-W seedling of his own ('Verona' x). This was easily the Best Bloom in the Section. Sandy McCabe had excellent 'Piraeus' and 'Mentor' while John O'Reilly's best were 'Golden Aura' and 'Delta Flight'. Sam Dukelow staged a good 1Y-Y seedling which was Best Division 1 in Show. Derrick Turbitt has the usual good 'Cool Crystal'. Sam Jordan took the Seedling Class with a nice Clive Postles pink.

The Novice Classes were dominated by George Jordan. As well as the Novice Championship he also took the Points Awards. George's best were 'Evesham' (Best Bloom Novice), 'Mentor', 'White Star', 'Loch Assynt' and 'Elixir'. Other good blooms in the section were 'Namraj' and 'Rotarian' from Robbie Curry, 'Nether Barr' and 'Mellon Park' from David Crawford and 'Soledad' from James Woods.

Best Division 5-9 in the Show went to Ballydorn with 'Canticle'. This took the W. J. Toal Award.

The show was organized in their usual excellent way by the Belfast Parks Department led by Show Manager Gillian Jones and her assistant Alice Blennerhasset. This year's Show was one of the best and the atmosphere was enhanced by our very welcome guests.

#### **Omagh Horticultural Society**

As usual this is the last of the Society Shows. In spite of the early season there was a very creditable turnout of flowers. Brian Duncan retained the Hugh Watson Trophy. Eyecatchers in his group were D1580 (2WWY), D1505 (2YYR), D1076 (2WYP) and inevitably 'Soprano' which was Best Division 2 and Best Bloom in Show. Brian

also took the 6 vases of 3 class. He had two entries which were first and second. In these were such worthies as 'Burning Bush', 'Cupid's Eye', 'Serena Beach' and of course 'Soprano'. 'White Star' was Best Trumpet. 'Serena Lodge' was Best Division 4. Other winning blooms in the Open were 'Fair Head' and 'Mary Kate'.

Maurice Kerr took the 9 Bloom Class from Richard McCaw and George Jordan. In this class Maurice's best were 'Pale Sunlight', 'Rossferry' and 'Hollypark'. Richard had excellent 'Lisnamulligan' and 'Gransha' while George had a good 'Dunley Hall' and 'Fragrant Rose'. M. Kerr won the Trophies for 3 Bloom and Single Bloom. In the 3 Bloom Section he had good vases of 'Star War' and a 3W-R seedling. Richard McCaw had a nice vase of 'Gransha' and Sam Dukelow had a winning vase of 'Thackeray' which contained the Best Bloom in the Amateur Section. In the Single Bloom Classes Sandy McCabe's 'Halley's Comet' was Best Division 3 in the Show. Best Bloom in the Novice Section was James Woods' 'Cantabile'. W. T. Semple took the Points Award in the Intermediate Section.

#### **N.I.D.G. Late Show**

The season concluded with the Late Show kindly hosted by Sir Frank and Lady Harrison. Against all expectations there were plenty of flowers. Best Bloom was 'Notre Dame' staged by B. S. Duncan. This is the second year in a row that it has taken this award. Mind you 'Soprano' gave it a run in spite of being given the "last rites". A very pleasant day matched only by the hospitality of our hosts ensured the season ended on a high note.

## **A REPORT FROM SCOTLAND**

**ANDREW LEITH**

This year Stonehaven Horticultural Society included 9 classes for Daffodil but flowers in their Spring Show. There were entries in all the classes, but the very early date 6th March, many of the blooms showed signs of being forced. But nice pots of the old favourites made a good display.

The weekend 3rd and 4th April the City of Dundee held their 3rd Annual Spring Show in the beautiful setting of the Caird Hall. The organisers had distributed posters for a colouring competition to the Primary Schools children and 2,700 Easter scenes for decorating the walls of the hall. Mr. Ron Ffitch travelled North from London to judge the daffodils. He placed the 6 x 1 blooms entered by Dorothy Spencer as the best in The Bank of Scotland Challenge Trophy class. She also gained most points in the local section. My own

success was in the Open Class, where I gained the most points in 3 x 1 and the Single Bloom classes. Also first and second in the 9-Vase Class and The Best Bloom in Show with a Division 1W-Y 'Bravoure'.

I travelled over the Border for the Gateshead Show 10th-11-12th April. The weather was very unkind. Thursday 8th-Friday 9th inches of rain fell in the 2 days. By Friday evening small streams of water was running through the Marquees. Saturday 10th sun was shining and the staff of the Parks Department had worked through the night to have the ground ready for the public to visit the Show. In spite of the bad weather the entries in the Show was well up on last year. Mr. Don Barnes judged the Daffodil Classes awarding Gateshead Championship to Professor Keenan. He also got the Best Bloom in Show with 'Daydream'. Mr. Jan Dalton staged a very interesting stand for the Daffodil Society of all 12 Divisions gaining a Silver Medal. But the highlight of the Show for me, the Tyrone Daffodil trade stand staged by Desmond and Clark Campbell gaining them The Large Gold Medal.

Back in Scotland on 17th April Keith Horticultural Society held their Spring Show. The judging this year was done by Mr. D. Harper and Mr. K. Murdoch retired gardeners from The Moray and Nairn Council. The entries in the Open Section Cut Flower Daffodils were slightly down on last year. My entry in the 16 Classes gained me all but one of the first prizes and my 6 x 1 Blooms of 'Mount Fugi', 'Montego', 'Meldrum', 'Cool Shades', 'Tomphubil', 'Merlin' gained me Keith Horticultural Society Challenge Trophy. The local Daffodil Section had more than doubled on the last year. Mr. Alex Smith a local grower was the most successful in the cut flower section winning the Keith Shield for the most points and also Trophy for the Best Pot of Bulbs with his entry of the old favourite 'Salome'.

Banff Horticultural Society Daffodil Group Show – Saturday 1st May – moving back a week to the holiday week-end and the new venue of St. Mary's Church Hall provided to be a great success with a larger number of visitors paying at the door and a huge increase in the Intermediate and Novice Classes also the Tulip and Alpine Classes showing an increase in previous years. The Championship Section was slightly down because of Jim Davidson stepping down from competing to judge this year's Show. My entry in Grampian Television Championship of Scotland was awarded first place with blooms of 'Chickerell', 'Loth Loren', 'Dilemma', 'Unique', 'Doctor Hugh', 'Loch Naver', 'Ashmore', 'Bosanova', 'Gin and Lime',

'Tomphubil', 'Altrust' and 'Balvenie'. Second place went to Colin Chinchin, Dunlugus, Turriff; third place—Mike Roy, Macduff; 1st 6 x 1 Grampian Class was Mike Roy. 3 x 3 Northern Ireland raised first and second was your truly with 3 blooms of 'Midas Touch', 'Loth Loren' and 'Smoky Bear'. 3 blooms of 'Armagh', 'Best of Luck' and 'Gold Bullion'. Best Bloom Division 1 – 'Strathkaniard'; Division 2 – 'Broomhill'; Division 7 – 'Stratosphere'; Best American raised 'Air Castle' was shown by Mike Roy; Best Bloom Division 3 – 'Chickerell'; Division 4 – 'Unique'; Division 6 – 'Swing Wing'; Best in New Zealand raised 'Kazocho' presented by myself. Also my entry of 'Chickerell' gained Best Bloom in Show and my 3 blooms of 'Ashmore' was judged Best Entry. The most points in the Intermediate Classes was gained by Mr. Alex Smith of Keith and the Best Bloom was a 'Daydream' shown by Ron Elder of Dundee. Most points in Novice Class went to Charles Morrison, Aberdour and the Best Bloom in the Section to a Division 2 W-W shown by Ron Elder, Dundee.

## A RETURN ULSTER VISIT

MARY LOU GRIPSHOVER

Since it had been over ten years since my first visit to Ulster, and with the ADS convention being held the first days of April and the London Show in mid-April, this seemed like a perfect opportunity for a second visit. It's always great to see the London Show with the wonderful trade exhibits and of course the Engleheart class, but a daffodil trip is not complete without a visit to Ulster.

Though this trip was shorter, the hospitality was as warm and friendly as I remembered it. Betty and Brian Duncan were wonderful hosts as always, doing yeoman duty this year with a full house of seven overseas visitors. It was a most congenial group, and as you can imagine, all the different accents led to many a hilarious moment!

On a first visit to Ulster, you come for the flowers; but on subsequent visits, you come also to renew friendships. And so it was great to see old friends and make new ones. Sandy McCabe, John Ennis and John O'Reilly were also in London, where Ruth Pardue, Nancy Gill and I were taken in as part of the Northern Ireland contingent. We were put to work as stagers and all round "gofers", and enjoyed the impromptu partying at the hotel after dinner. (Unfortunately Nancy was unable to join us on the trip to Ulster.) We were pleased to see that Brian won the Engleheart Cup and Sandy the Richardson Trophy.

Back at Duncan's, we had time to walk the fields and marvel at the numbers of great flowers coming on there. I don't know how Brian can select the best, especially among his pink seedlings. 'Soprano' was superb! I was also intrigued by 'Prototype', a 6Y-P. And the orange-petalled ones, 'Bandesara' and 'Brodict' and 'Dawn Run' and . . . and the doubles 'Serena Beach' and 'Serena Lodge'. Well, those of you who have seen his fields know what I mean! It will be interesting to see how some of these fare in my climate, which is likely to go from 50 degrees to 80 degrees overnight during the blooming season. One advantage of my climate, though, is that I never have a problem with botrytis during bloom season.

You were all very kind to invite us to judge at Belfast, and take a chance on American-style judging! It was a treat for us. It is always nice to see your Shows which have all the other wonderful horticulture exhibits along with the daffodils. Our ADS Shows are for daffodils only. We need to encourage more garden clubs to have Spring Shows and offer our awards for daffodils. I like your staging better, too. The tiers for the flowers are great; and having staged some vases of three your way, I find it's no more difficult, and the flowers can be shown to better advantage because you can separate them a bit. It was nice to meet your chairman, Richard McCaw (how DO you find them so young?), and to see Sam Jordan, Maurice Kerr, Sam Dukelow, Michael Ward, Sam Bankhead and Kate Reade again. I am sorry that Kate has had to curtail her activities while she looks after Robin. It was good, too, to see the seedlings being bred by amateurs in Ulster. I especially liked Sandy's S-2 in his Royal Mail winning entry.

The dinner at the Ballance House was a wonderful way to end the daffodil festivities. Again your hospitality was unexcelled. I think I can speak for all the visitors when I say thanks to all of you for making our visit so memorable. I hope we might have the opportunity to return the hospitality in the near future. One thing I know for sure – I won't wait another ten years for the next visit!

## 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, cultivations, 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), devise 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.