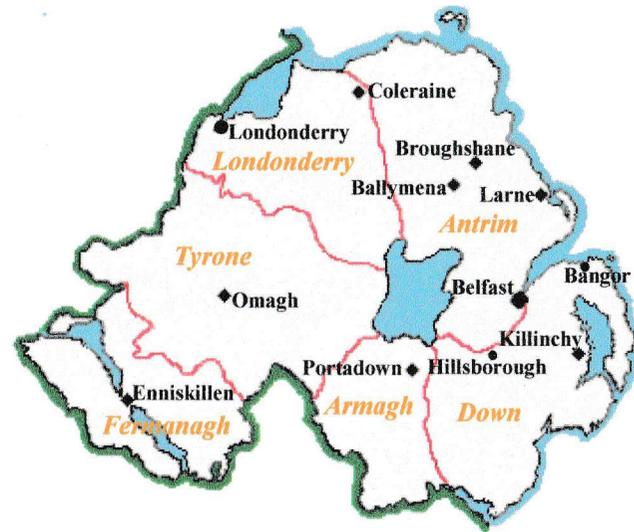


Newsletter

of the

Northern Ireland

Daffodil Group



Half yearly publication

*Spring 2008
Issue*

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP
NEWSLETTER**

VOL 7 NO. 1

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES
March 2008

Brian Duncan

Time flies by - it is March 5th as I write. The season of miniatures and species has well and truly started. 'Tete-a-Tete', and *N. cyclamineus* and *N. asturiensis* are all in full bloom with 'Jetfire', 'Rapture' and *N. obvallaris* all in close pursuit. There are little seedlings to assess, there are pots to be housed and protected, emerging leaves need to be sprayed against fungal attack and daffodil beds require treatment with pre-emergent weed-killer. So this is not a good time to be writing but I have only myself to blame as the editor did issue a mild reminder some time ago. He knows that procrastination and I have a close relationship and so a second more pressing reminder has been issued ! A third demand would be most embarrassing and so I start with this space-filling paragraph to help click my mind into gear and think of what needs to be said.

Obviously the 2008 World Daffodil Convention is the most important event on the horizon - the third such event that the NIDG has organised, the previous ones being in 1979 and 1998. Those earlier events had 88 and 107 participants respectively. On this occasion I understand we expect about 70 plus attendees. It is particularly pleasing to welcome back Dr Marvin and Kathy Andersen who were here on both previous occasions. We also welcome the return of several others who were here in 1998 - David Adams, Michael Brown from New Zealand, Margaret Baird, Ben Blake and Nancy Tackett, Dave Burdick and Anne Nigrelli, Mary Lou Gripshover, Dianne Mrak, Peggy Oberg,

Dorothy Sensibaugh and Bob Spotts from USA. We trust all of these will renew old friendships and that the newcomers will also enjoy the friendly atmosphere and hospitality of a daffodil Convention in Northern Ireland and will also be induced to return sometime soon.

Once again we are indebted to several sponsoring bodies for their help and support, especially the Belfast City Council and the Omagh District Council. We are most grateful for their co-operation and assistance.

A great programme of events has already been widely publicised and a detailed copy will be provided for all delegates on arrival. We trust the field visits will be blessed with fine weather.

I want to thank Nial Watson and his hard working Convention Committee for their thoughtful and imaginative planning. To carry the event through efficiently I appeal for maximum support for the Committee from all members by responding fully to whatever tasks they may assign to us in the short time leading up to and during the Convention.

Lets ensure that our visitors take home a lasting and favourable impression of Northern Ireland and its daffodils, friendship and hospitality.

I know the Editorial Committee is planning a special edition of our Newsletter and the major weight of work falls on our imaginative editor Maurice Kerr who is also planning and printing tickets for the various events. Thank you Maurice for all that you do for us.

May I end these notes by wishing all members and visitors the happiest of times accompanied by fine weather and beautiful blooms throughout the 2008 season.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

James Smyth

The Belfast Spring fair remains the flagship event in our show season and last season we certainly increased the number of daffodil exhibits. Open class entries increased by over 100 exhibits and the Novice numbers were up by 42. Belfast Parks would like to thank the members of the group who supported the shrub and plant classes. Numbers attending the two day event were close to 3,500 despite the mixed weather experienced that weekend.

During the last year we lost 3 top exhibitors. They will be deeply missed by all the daffodil fraternity here. The first held every office in the Group during his many years with us. The second held the position of head gardener at Carncairn for many years and was a very good exhibitor in his own right. The third took many best bloom awards and Silver Thread awards throughout his exhibiting days. They were Sandy McCabe, John Maybin and Sam Jordan.

During 2007 we had another excellent Winter Show at Balance House, a very interesting visit to Ben Varden Gardens at Dervock and many bulbs changed hands at our annual Bulb Auction. Mark Van de Vliet from Cornwall finished the year with a very interesting talk about his family daffodil business which spans 3 generations.

To say we have a packed programme of events would be an understatement. There are several changes to draw your attention to at the Belfast Spring Fair; We have

divided the poeticus class into two:- one for flowers with red rims and one for flowers without red rims. This will allow development and the display to the public of flowers that have not been readily seen up to now. We have also asked for the reintroduction of 2 tulip classes, so lets make them hard to judge. The silver thread award is planned for South County Dublin Show and the Amateur Championship of Ireland is heading for Omagh. In the autumn we have talks planned by two renowned plantsmen speaking on their latest adventure trips.

I have left the World Convention to the end as we are going to need all your support to show our international friends a good time for the 4 days they are here in the province. We need guides for buses, flower arrangers and articles for the Newsletter. There will be two different dinner venues to enable you to meet our visitors. The first will be in Belfast Castle hosted by Belfast City Council on the Saturday evening of the Spring Fair. The second will be the Farewell dinner in the Silver Birches Hotel in Omagh.

With all these events planned for this year may you all enjoy yourselves and may you have a successful growing season.

EDITORS REMARKS

Maurice Kerr

It gives me great pleasure to report that for this edition of our Newsletter the vast majority of contributions have met the deadline. This gave me time to change the format. I have included photographs in accompaniment

with some of the articles and these have been printed direct rather than photocopied.

As we welcome the World Daffodil Convention for the third time I have included a brief history of the societies throughout the Province. There are articles on some of the developments that have taken place in recent years on colour and seedlings here in the Province from Richard, Derrick and Nial. I have an article from Wilf Hall highlighting developments that are taking place in New Zealand which I have found very interesting, particularly how they deal with seedling daffodils in the seedling classes. I raised this issue here some time ago in the hope of generating debate but to no avail. I still feel that there should be a time limit on the display of such seedlings in seedling classes and that they should then only be used in ordinary classes even if shown under seedling number.

There is an article from Brian on the rationale behind the winter show which brings the daffodil and alpine fraternities together. Included are the results of this show along with some photographs. By the time we go to print I hope to include some results and photographs from the Early Show at Coleman's garden centre in Templepatrick where we endeavour to bring more modern daffodil varieties to the attention of the public. This Early Show takes place on the 16th of March which as I write this is only a matter of a few days away. Unlike Brian I have only a few varieties coming into bloom at present and the weather is not very promising and rather cold.

May I thank everyone who produced copy for me and I hope you keep it coming. May I wish you all a successful season and hope that the weather is good for

the visit of our friends from overseas. I hope they will enjoy their stay and our hospitality here in Ireland.

BALLYMENA GARDEN CLUB

Hugh Kerry

Ballymena Garden Club, formerly known as Ballymena Horticultural Society, was founded in 1919 with the object of advancing members knowledge of gardening through a programme of talks, demonstrations and garden visits. Current membership stands at around 80. The Club's lecture programme for most of its time was held in various venues in Ballymena but it has now established its base in the nearby village of Broughshane which is known throughout the British Isles and further afield for its achievements in community competitions having in 2008 won top place in a number of prestigious competitions. Foremost among these were the Britain in Bloom "Champion of Champions", Ireland's Best Kept Small Town and Calor Village of the Year competitions.

For many years the Club organised annual Spring and Autumn Shows but, due to shortage of manpower, only a Spring Show is now held in the Community Centre in Broughshane. As you may know, Broughshane was a centre for daffodil breeding from the early 1900's until recently with the names of Guy Wilson, William Dunlop, Tom Bloomer and Kate Reade springing to mind.

A highlight of the Show is its daffodil classes which attract entries from members of the Northern

Ireland Daffodil Group and other enthusiasts who compete for a range of trophies, some of which are named in honour of these pioneers of daffodil breeding.

Although daffodil exhibits form a large section of the Show, exhibitors with other interests are not neglected. A Miscellaneous Section caters for those who wish to exhibit flowering and foliage pot plants, cacti and succulents, and vases of cut blooms. The Floral Art Section provides classes open to Women's Institutes, Juniors and Novices. The Schools and Young Persons Section presents an opportunity for young people to compete in classes designed to test their artistic and gardening skills.

COLERAINE GARDENING CLUB

Derrick Turbitt

The Coleraine and District Horticultural Society was founded in 1928. Membership was half a crown for the aristocrats and sixpence for the plebs. In the early years there was a series of winter talks and shows in late summer and a late chrysanthemum show in November. Flower shows were even held during the war years with profits going to the war effort.

During the fifties and early sixties spring flower shows, featuring mainly daffodils, were held. The cups from this era are inscribed with names such as Guy Wilson, Willie John Dunlop, Tom Bloomer and James Bankhead. In the early eighties the society came under

the influence of Dave Willis who was estates superintendent at the University of Ulster Coleraine. Among other things he established the Guy Wilson daffodil gardens at the university and became smitten with yellow fever in his researches for Guy Wilson bred daffodils.

The spring flower shows were revived in 1984 and are held in the Octagon at the university. Visitors can view the show and the Guy Wilson gardens on the same site. Last year the show hosted the 'Amateur Championship of Ireland' where we had a record 5 entries.

The name of the club was changed recently to 'Coleraine and District Gardening Club' as it was felt that the original title was off-putting to potential new members. Recently our treasurer came across some old postcards (1955) from Guy Wilson to the club secretary promising prize vouchers for the show. The show has helped revive interest in daffodils in the Coleraine area and is well supported by both locals and the university.

CITY OF DERRY & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Seamus McAuley

In the 1930s a group of mostly professional men got together to form a society to promote gardening in the Derry Area, and so began the Derry & District Horticultural Society. Those same gardening concepts are

promoted today. We know very little of the next 33 years as the documents pertaining to this period are not available. We do have the minutes for 1956 until the present time.

Back then not many city dwellers had a garden as most people lived in small terraced houses. Most city gardening was in the form of allotments. These allotment gardeners provided vegetables, fruit and cut flowers for the local families at a reasonable price. To encourage the continuance of this practice and generate an appreciation of the benefits of growing shrubs and flowering plants even in tubs and window boxes they decided to hold an autumn show. They felt that by letting people see tiptop flowers, fruit and vegetables they would be encouraged to try their hand. Also by ensuring that children attended the show by having a children's fancy dress parade which was judged and prizes given the society was ensuring the future. We would refer to these founding members as the "Big Guns" of our local society. The people who sat around the table were leading industrialists, wholesalers and the heads of large department stores. It would be easy at this point to write it off as "they were just doing their civic duty", but these people were still members of the City of Derry Horticultural society until their death or ill health meant they couldn't continue.

From the beginning the society held one show per year usually the first week in September. It was a two-day event, Wed. and Thurs., with coffee available on Thurs. The shows took place in the Guildhall and continued there until the Guildhall was damaged in 1971. Because of falling numbers of exhibitors in the allotment classes in 1956 and in 1957 the allotment classes were dropped

from the schedule extra classes were added to the decorative section. These classes were to allow the inclusion of flowers staged in unusual containers.

1968 saw the show committee recommend that the Autumn show be dropped and only the Spring show be staged. This is the format used up to the present day. The society has, from the beginning, appointed a ten member committee to run its affairs. This committee appointed sub committees, such as the show committee and the women's committee. These committees held their meetings in various venues. At some point in time the women's committee lapsed and is no longer in vogue.

Membership of the society had fallen at the end of the seventies, early eighties possibly due to the society having to change venues for its meetings. Eighty-one saw the society move to Foyle & Londonderry College. This gave the society a more stable base to work from and prompted the general committee to mount a vigorous advertising campaign to attract new members. There were write-ups in the local papers highlighting the benefits to those interested in gardening. Posters were also displayed in local shops and supermarkets listing coming events etc. I have been a member ever since the society's spring show provided classes for daffodils but these reflected the inexperience of both the show organisers and the people exhibiting. To have show sections both these problems had to be rectified. This was accomplished by the arrival of Lexie Donnell. Lexie was in the fire brigade stationed in Omagh for many years and was then transferred to the fire station in the Waterside. He was very experienced in growing and exhibiting daffodils. He became a member of City of Derry society and set about organising the

daffodil section of the show properly. Of course he also won all the trophies, as he was light years beyond the rest of us in experience. His sudden death a few years later while still comparatively young was a bitter blow to the society. The society carried on the work started by Lexie and today the daffodil section has an expanding Open class, a well-supported intermediate class and a novice class of exhibitors of all ages. I have singled out the daffodil section because all other sections are very well supported .

The society in its present form encourages interest in all aspects of gardening and has a programme of six talks given by experts in subjects chosen by the society members. These start in September through to April, excluding December. In January there is a short talk after the Annual General Meeting. The society arranges an outing to a member's garden and local gardens of interest. In June each year there is the annual outing to a combination of specialist garden centre and a National Trust garden.

HILLSBOROUGH GARDENING CLUB

Richard McCaw

Hillsborough Gardening Club's (originally know as Hillsborough Horticultural Society) Spring Show is usually held on the first Saturday in April. This is often early and suits the coastal growers but they don't get it all their own way; this is where the Lisburn/Hillsborough trio

of growers call their "local". (George Wilson, Robert Curry and Richard McCaw)

The Georgian village of Hillsborough is situated in the heart of County Down. The Georgian style Courthouse is sited amongst a range of Georgian town houses in the square. Closed as a court in 1987 it is now the Tourist Information Centre with a Farmers market once a month. Its world famous Oyster eating competition attracts visitors from all over the world. Many "Best Village" local and national, awards have been bestowed on this pictographic village.

Hillsborough Castle is a late 18th Century mansion house situated in the heart of Hillsborough village. The Castle was the seat of the Hill family, who held the title of Marquis of Downshire. In 1922 the government bought the Castle from the Hills and it became home to the Governor of Northern Ireland. From 1972 it has been the official residence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Hillsborough Gardening Club has a strong and willing membership and actively encourages the showing of Daffodils. One class they have in their schedule, which is slightly different to others, is a 5 bloom 1 vase 5 varieties foreign-raised, usually 5 American raised. Their 2008 schedule has undergone a big overhaul among which the Open classes and Senior Amateur classes will be combined. There will be more single daffodil and multi-bloom classes and an historical class has been added, this should give a more competitive approach.

Corby Candle shown by Derrick Turbitt was Best Bloom in Show 2007 .

OMAGH GARDENING SOCIETY

Sam Dukelow

In the autumn of 1951 a group of gardening enthusiasts in Omagh organised a show of flowers, fruit and vegetables. From this beginning grew what is now the Omagh gardening Society.

They continued running this show annually and in 1957 they decided to become more organised in order to get the best out of their hobby. They called themselves 'The Omagh and District Horticultural Society' - and right away applied for—and were granted—affiliation to the Royal Horticultural Society. As well as the Annual Show they held monthly meetings on gardening topics in the local Technical College.

One of the foundation members and first secretary was Mr R.T. Newell M.B.E. principal of the old Model School.

Its most famous member Brian Duncan came to Omagh in March 1955; was Secretary of the Society in 1963 and Chairman in 1966.

Under his influence the Society organised their first Annual Daffodil Show in 1963 at which he won best bloom with 'Canatrice'. The Society has a record of all best blooms to date. The only break occurred in 2001 when the Show was cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth disease scare.

In 1997 the Society changed its name to 'The Omagh Gardening Society' in the hope that it might increase its membership. It had little effect.

The Autumn Show was abandoned after 1999

through lack of support, but the Spring Daffodil Show goes from strength to strength. With Brian's influence many of the visitors from around the world from as far away as America and Australia help judge the many different classes.

This year's Show will be held on 3rd May.

THE NIDG WINTER SHOW

Brian S. Duncan

In the past two years the NIDG has organised a small Winter Show at its February meeting. This is at a time of year when evenings are beginning to brighten, when Snowdrops and Snowflakes are usually still plentiful and the species Crocus and dwarf Iris are blooming abundantly. Also, the Helebores are at their best and many other small bulbs like Chionodoxa, Muscari and Scilla are charming us with their own little 'blue' story. There may also be a few Kaufmania or other species Tulips to add a flash of red but most important of all many miniature and species Daffodils are making their own special effort to announce that spring is not far off.

After those dull, dark and dank days of the year's closing months it seemed appropriate to create an opportunity for members who grow some of these early flowers to share their beauty with the wider membership. Thus a Show was born, with the added objectives of increasing interest in these small bulbs and encouraging other gardeners with alpine and wider interests to join our

group. It would seem that these objectives are being achieved, the second Winter Show was much larger than the first with more than twice the bench space required to stage the entries in the increased number of classes. Already we have signed several new members with wider interests that should help broaden the horizons of our group for the future.

The schedule for the first experimental show was deliberately kept very simple with only two classes in each of three sections for species or cultivars of Miniature Narcissus, Galanthus and bulbous plants of any other genus. One class in each section was for three cut blooms or stems and the other was for a pot of bulbs, any size, any number of blooms.

The 66 entries at this first show surpassed committee expectations and made for an attractive little show that gave encouragement for a slightly enlarged schedule for the second show. Sections for Crocus and Helebores were created and classes for 'seedlings raised by the exhibitor' were added to the Narcissus and Galanthus sections. Entries for this second show were much increased across the board, requiring at least four times the bench space, and the classes for hellebore blooms floated in saucers were an attractive and popular addition.

The success of these little Shows has been greatly enhanced by the great generosity of Jan Pennings who provided small bulbs as prizes for the first Show. When we increased the number of classes we felt we could not impose on Jan's generosity for the full load of prizes and

Arno and Annelise Kroon of Floratuin kindly stepped in to share the load for the second show. We are pleased that our generous donors have agreed to donate small bulbs as prizes yet again.

One never knows where a first step will lead – but with these little Winter Shows the NIDG has taken two tentative steps into hitherto unexplored territory. We seek continued support from members and friends of our group. Suggestions for the improvement of the schedule will be welcomed. With advice and enthusiastic support who knows where those first tentative steps may lead.

WINTER SHOW RESULTS

Section A – Miniature Narcissus, Species or Cultivar. Max Diameter - 50mm

Class 1 3 stems (cut flowers) staged in a test tube.
5 entries

1 st	D. Turbitt	n. cyclamineus;
2 nd	D. Turbitt	'Small Talk' OP
3 rd	N. Watson	'Kokopelli'

Class 2 One pot, any size, any number of blooms.
3 entries

1 st	D. Turbitt	n. cyclamineus
2 nd	D. Cairns	'Snipe'
3 rd	J. Price	n asturiensis

Class 3 One miniature seedling raised by the exhibitor. One or more stems shown as cut bloom/s or grown in a pot.
1 entry

1 st	D. Turbitt	seedling 0801 ('Bryanston' x n cyclamineus) x N cyclamineus
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Best exhibit in Section

N. Cyclamineus in class 1 by Derrick Turbitt

Section B – Galanthus, Species or Cultivar.

Class 4 3 stems (cut flowers) staged in a test tube
7 entries

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 st | N. Watson | g. elwesii |
| 2 nd | D. Cairns | g. elwesii |
| 3 rd | N. Watson | g. elwesii |

Class 5 One pot, any size, any number of blooms.
2 entries

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|------------|
| 1 st | R. Curry | g. nivalis |
| 2 nd | R. McCaw | g. nivalis |

Class 6 One seedling/variant raised or collected by the exhibitor. One or more stems shown as cut bloom/s or grown in a pot.

No entries

Best exhibit in Section

g. elwesii in class 4 by Nial Watson

Section C Crocus.

Class 7 Species, named selections or hybrids. One pot or bowl, any size, any number of blooms.

1 entry

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 st | D. Cairns | ‘Miss Vain’ |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|

Class 8 Large Dutch crocus. One pot or bowl, any size, any number of blooms.

No entries

Winter Show



Cyclamen Hybrid



Primula



Galanthus Elwesii



Tulip Stressa



N. Cyclamineus

Best exhibit in Section

'Miss Vain' in class 7 by Deirdre Cairns

Section D Bulbous plant, Any other genus. Species or Cultivar.

Class 9 3 stems (cut flowers) staged in a test tube.
No entries

Class 10 One pot, any size, any number of blooms.
10 entries

1 st	D. Turbitt	cyclamen hybrid
2 nd	D. Cairns	iris
3 rd	D. Turbitt	cyclamen coum

Best exhibit in Section

cyclamen in class 10 by Derrick Turbitt

Section E Helebores or other non-bulbous plants.

Class 11 Helebore - 3 severed blooms, white or pale shades.
2 entries

1st & 2nd J. Price

Class 12 Helebore - 3 severed blooms, dark shades.
3 entries

1st D. Cairns;
2nd & 3rd J. Price

Class 13 Helebore - 3 severed blooms, attractively marked or spotted.
2 entries

1st & 2nd J. Price

Class 14 Any other genus – in pot any size or as cut blooms, any number.
1 entry

1st D. Turbitt Jack-in-the-green double primula

Best exhibit in Section

primula in class 14 by Derrick Turbitt

Section F Standard Daffodils (more than 50mm in diameter)

Class 15 Yellow perianth, one stem
8 entries

1st & 2nd D Turbitt seedling C001 'Eskylane' x n
cyclamineus;

3rd N Watson 'Marzo'

Class 16 White perianth, one stem
3 entries

1 st	D. Cairns	'Topolino';
2 nd	R. Curry	'Topolino';
3 rd	N. Watson	'Chorus Line'

Best exhibit in Section

seedling C001 in class 15 by Derrick Turbitt

Best exhibit in Show

cyclamen hybrid in class 10
shown by Derrick Turbitt

DAFFODIL BREEDERS AND THEIR SEEDLINGS

Richard McCaw

I was asked to pull together an article on current Daffodil breeding in 2008.

How was I to do that or at least how was I to do it slightly differently to what may have been said before about our top growers in Ireland ?

I decided to look at our current breeders and put some of my own thoughts together along with each grower's response. Each were asked, if they could have 3 or 4 of their choice seedlings at Belfast Spring Show, what would they be, if the "wind was in the right direction". In other words which of their seedlings would they like to have on the show bench when all our World Tour delegates would be there?

Whether you read this, before or after the show, look out for them, or consult with your show notes.

In the Daffodils in Ireland 1998 edition, eighteen breeders and members of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group wrote about their aims in connection with daffodil breeding. The numbers of enthusiasts still breeding new varieties may have diminished but the quality has not.

Nial Watson, Ringhaddy has been doing a lot of crossing and is our next, or, current generation of top daffodil hybridisers. Nial has done a lot of hybridising in the years since his conversion to growing daffodils and has the most knowledge on their DNA. With this knowledge it will be interesting to see what comes out of Ringhaddy over the next few years.

Nial would hope to have a few intermediates at

Belfast show including 'Anna Panna' 3Y-O 'Moontide' x 'Achduart' : seedling 240 to be named 'Little Alice' 4Y-R Double sdg x 'Crackington').

Also he has a lot of standard seedlings coming through and again he would like to have at the show: - No. 72 2Y-P ('Rose Umber x D 1722) Very good Colour and smooth, 129 1Y-R ('Rory's Glen x Mexico City) has done well and has a distinct orange tinge to the perianth and 520 2O-R Creagh Dugh x Rio Bravo Very good colour, round smooth with long cup.

Derrick Turbitt from Portstewart would be, in my opinion, our top Amateur breeder. I know its mainly seedlings I am considering here but watch out for Causeway Sunset 2Y-R if you have not already seen it. Derrick grows his Daffodils in a restricted size garden but has managed to produce some world-class seedlings.

Division 1 W-W 9909 'White Star' x 'Regal Bliss' mid season, consistent smooth 1 W-W multiplies well and forms good bulbs. Best seedling, best div 1 and best bloom Belfast 2004. Vase of three blooms included in winning Guy Wilson, London 2005.

Division 2 W-YYP 9718 'Mentor' x 'High Society' late season flower with a smooth perianth of great substance; Best vase of 3 and best div 2 Belfast 2004. Proving to be a promising parent when crossed with brighter white pinks.

Division 3W-YYO 9404 'Park Springs' x 'Perimeter' early A useful 3 white which is a few days earlier than 'Park Springs' White perianth similar to its pollen parent with a small yellow cup lit up with a 1mm rim of bright orange. Best div 3 Coleraine 2003; in winning Bowles, London 2006.

Early Spring Show 2008



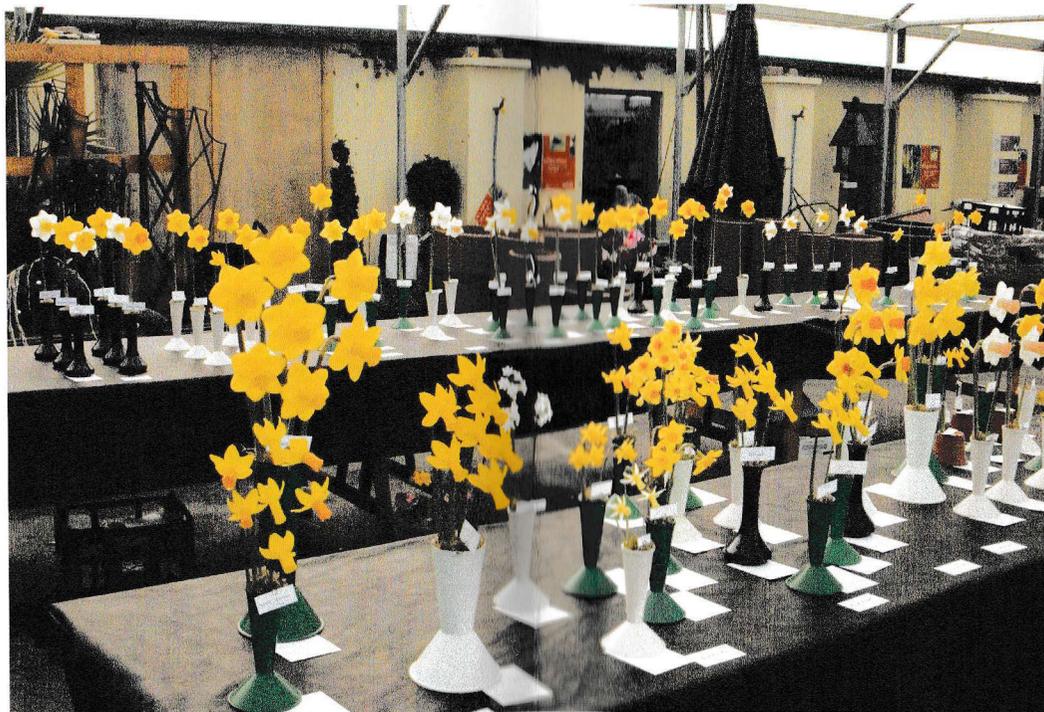
'Queens Guard' N. Watson



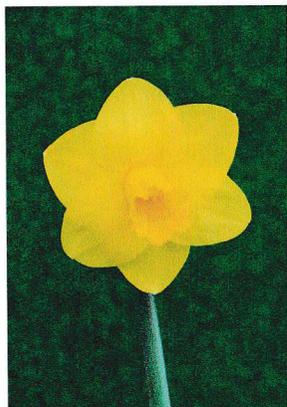
'Wy East' Best Bloom in Show
G. Wilson



'Maria Pia' N. Watson



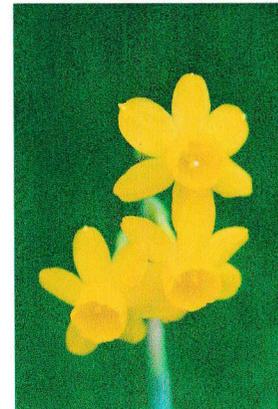
Some of the Blooms at the Early Show in Colemans Garden Centre



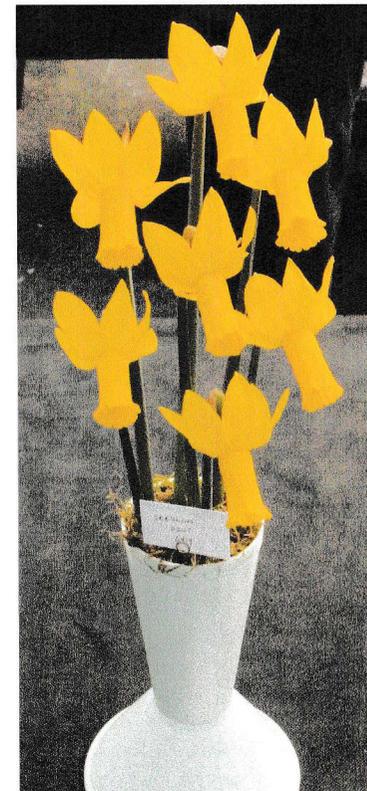
'Impeccable' N. Watson



'Rapture' M. Kerr



'Calciola' B. S. Duncan



Sdg. 0201 D. Turbitt



Brian staging miniatures

Division 4 Y-Y 0028 'Crackington' x 'Reference Point' late A neat symmetrical deep yellow with very smooth back 6 petals. This has the advantage of flowering late when yellows are hard to find. Best vase of 3 blooms, best amateur seedling and best division 4 Belfast 2005.

Division 6 Y-Y 0201 'Bryanston' x n.cyclamineus A smooth, naturally well reflexed div 6. Grows to a height of about 10 inches and has the added advantage of producing a crop of secondary blooms. Best bloom early show at 2006.

Robert Curry, Lisburn, has been growing his flowers in a couple of allotments in Belfast. Perhaps not doing the number of crosses he would like to do but would still like to have the following at Belfast: - 3W-WWR beautiful flower if it does not nick on opening. 6Y-YRR nice flower, which has won its class.

Ian Erskine is 6 years into breeding Daffodils so there should be some from south of the border soon.

Jack Carlisle from Bangor has been out off growing daffodils for a number of years but we are glad to say that he is back in the fold and showing again as from 2007. In that time Jack has been hybridising and was able to get some on the bench so watch out for these coming through.

Kate Reade, Broughshane still exhibits at our local shows and can still put up a "twelve" containing seedlings, although perhaps not in the frequency that she used to do.

Patrick Kiernan has been growing and breeding daffodils in the middle of Ireland in a place called Cam, Edgeworthstown. Patrick was growing away quietly until he asked Brian Duncan to call and see his work. Brian was impressed enough to encourage Patrick to name a few, so look out for these and also a couple of seedlings

coming on including a showy 2W-O,R with breeding potential for 2W-R and 11W - R and a nice 2Y-Y seedling.

Maurice Kerr near Crumlin grows his flowers in heavy soil, organically, has many seedlings and is usually the mainstay of the Amateur breeders in Belfast. His aim is to win the Championship of Ireland with his own seedlings. He has come close a couple of times. Is this the year? Maurice would like to have at Belfast: -

88/39/6 2W-YYO has won many times and is his answer to 'Ringleader' Consistent and produces many high quality blooms but can burn. One of his early successes. Breeding 'Pontresina' x 1215(BSD)

52 4Y-O crossed in 92 Consistent, stands up well in wet weather. Has won quite a few times and been placed on many occasions. Used every year either at Belfast or Ballymena. Best Div. 4 Belfast 2004. Well filled and generally neater than 'Beauvallon' when it comes to centre petaloids. Breeding 'Smokey Bear' x 'Limbo'

311 2W-GWW crossed in 95. Has used this consistently every season in many different classes. Very good form, poise and texture. A great flower for showing as it seldom requires dressing other than to clean dust off. Breeding 'Verona' sdg x 'Silversmith'

469 2Y-YR crossed in 96. Good strong colour appears to be consistent. Good form and poise. Very slow to begin flowering (1st bloom appeared 04) & multiply (still only have 4 bulbs) but was able to cut and use every bloom last season. Breeding 'Triple Crown' x 'Twicer'.

731 3W-WWP crossed in 2000. Hopeful that this will continue to perform, last season was it first outing and second year flowering. Nice fine wire rim of good colour. Breeding sdg.106 ('White Hill' x 'Masai Mara') x 'Savoir Faire'.

I have been breeding for 15 years just outside Hillsborough and would like to have No.75 1Y-Y 'Goldfinger' x 'Barnesgold'. As constant as both its parents put together, very good when grown to size.

119 4W-P it has been referred to as 'strawberries and cream' the reason- its white petals and the pink petaloids being dappled with white.

157 3Y-YYR a large flower slightly lighter yellow than I would like, very consistent.

86 3 Y-R 'Triple Crown' x 'Garden News', 73mm deep coloured intermediate.

12 3Y-Y has won best seedling and can be shown in the sulphur class.

May I leave the best to last? When I asked Brian Duncan MBE to choose 3 or 4 blooms he would like to have at Belfast, his retort was "Good heavens" or at least I think that's what he said, it was a bad line! Brian has so many "children" it was probably a hard if not a silly question to ask. The flowers that follow have been selected by Brian, so, if these are his choices they must be 'crackers'. Brian over the last few years turned his attention to miniatures and is now doing to them what he did for standards. Brian has encouraged many growers to start breeding, myself included. Is it any wonder we have growers who can display colour and form in their flowers?

2748 - 2W-P/R (Magician x 1827)

At its best this seedling is dramatic and has won the 'Any other colour' class in London. It hardly knows whether to be deep pink or red, though I suppose the latter is more accurate and it will probably be registered as 2W-R. A real impact flower if it gets into a '12 bloom' class and it should be useful for breeding W-O, R or P, large cup or

trumpet flowers.

2866 - 1Y-O or 'R Tyre' x 'Nederburg' One of the brightest, best formed and consistent of many seedlings seeking good colour and form in orange or red trumpets. It is medium sized, just about reaching 100mm diameter.

2231 - Div.1 or 2 YYW-P ('Oregon Pioneer' x 'Azocor'). This flower has wonderful colour enhanced by the white halo at the base of the petals. Has been a prize winner in London and was a candidate for the Ralph White Memorial Medal. A good specimen of this flower would add a bit of quality and variety to a class of twelve.

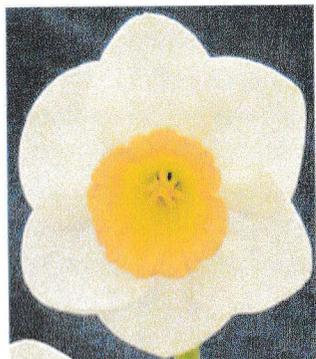
2627 - 3Y-YYR 'Triple Crown' x 'Pacific Rim'. To date this has proved to be very consistent. It is like a larger and improved 'Triple Crown' and I hope it will be available for a front wing position in next years Championship twelve. It was selected as Best Seedling at the Late London Competition 2007.

2680 2W-P 'Naivasha' x 'Eastern Promise'. This is proving to be very consistent and is probably my best 2W-P to date. It was Best Seedling, Best Div 2 and Best Bloom in Show in Belfast in 2007. It is a large flower of 110 mm diameter and has been used in winning twelve Bloom classes in London and elsewhere. I hope I can rely on it for the Championship twelve class at the Convention show in Belfast next spring.

Brian is correct this is a brilliant bloom look out for this one.

When I finished this article I felt like a Racehorse tipster. So what bloom will get the trophy for coming first? The odds may slightly favour the professional growers but watch out for some of the amateurs. Their odds are falling fast and I know they will be out to upset the bookies. So we wish all at Belfast Spring Festival in this our World Convention year every success.

Seedlings to look out for



DT 9718



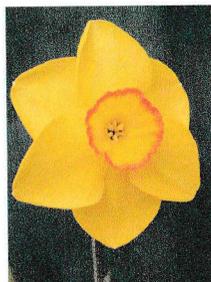
BSD2680



BSD 2748



RAM 75



BSD 2627



DT 9909



RAM119



MK 311

COLOUR TRENDS IN MODERN IRISH DAFFODILS

Derrick Turbitt

My normal tendency is to judge a daffodil flower as a whole, considering the overall appearance with regard to form, poise, colour, condition and texture. However for this exercise I will be looking at colour trends (read improvements) in modern Irish daffodils. By modern, I will be comparing those available today with those that were available in 1998 (date when the World Convention was last in N. Ireland). With the demise of Ballydorn and Carncairn I will be looking at the prolific output of new cultivars from Brian Duncan released by Ringhaddy Daffodils. While the amateur band and Nial Watson are producing lots of seedlings on the show bench very few of these have reached the numbers required for release in a commercial catalogue.

The simplest way is to consider colour trends by division.

Division 1

Over the past 10 years the colour improvements in this division are in the Y-O, Y-P and W-P cultivars. In 1998 we had 'Cheetah' and 'Kings Grove' that developed orange trumpets. These have been superseded by 'Chingah', 'Feline Queen', 'Tyrree' and 'Proud Fellow' all displaying solid orange cups. The search goes on for the solid red trumpets. Ten years ago the only Irish pink trumpet was 'Rose Gold' 1YYW-GPP. This has been improved on with the introduction of 'Thistin', 'Belfast Lough' and the recently introduced 'Jauno'.

'Bronzewing' 1Y/W-P brings novel colour to the division 1 pinks. The 1998 catalogues contain no Irish 1W-P's. 'Chanson' appears in 1999 showing how quickly time passes as I thought it was a recent introduction. It has now been joined by 'Descant', 'Edenderry' and 'Korora Bay' all useful 1W-P's.

Division 2

Colour wise there has been little improvement in the Y-R and Y-O cultivars. 'Lennymore', 'Tropical Heat' and 'Surrey' can still hold their own. Similarly there is only a marginal improvement in the Y-rims. The 2Y-P's are a different story. In 1998 we had 'Brindle Pink' and some cultivars where the perianth toned from white to yellow as it was dying. These have been succeeded by much brighter contrasting colours as exhibited by 'Pincambo' 2YYW-P and 'Zwynner' 2YYW-P. One could argue as to whether the 2W-P's have been improved. There is a move towards deeper reddish pinks as in 'Alto' 2W-P and 'Fashion Model' 2W-WPP. 'Frosted Pink' 2W-PPW represents a colour break as does 'Pink Gilt' 2W-WPY. In recent years there has been little improvement in 2W-R's. Perhaps this will come from increased red tones in the pinks.

Division 3

All yellows seem to be a neglected group in division 3, or are they just hard to come by? Brian Duncan's 'Lemma' is a smooth uniform yellow colour. The yellow reds both solid and rimmed have improved marginally with offerings such as 'Stellar Glow' 3Y-R, 'Summer Solstice' 3Y-R and 'Compton Court' 3Y-GYR. In the 3W-R sub division 'Dr Hugh' is as bright as any of the

newer pretenders. The 3W-Y's have added impact with 'Star Quality' 3W-GYY and 'Jammin' 3W-Y. It is in the 3W-P sub division that most progress has been made with solid pink cups such as 'Panoramic Pink' and 'Demeanour'. In the rimmed classes the latest introductions have intense reddish pink rims with cultivars such as 'Dena' 3W-GWP, 'Cherry Glow' 3W-GWP and 'Volcanic Rim' 3W-GYP.

Division 4

In 1998 we had a good colour range in division 4. It is difficult to imagine an improvement in 'Dorchester' 4W-P either in colour or in form. 'Dambuster' 4W-Y and 'Greek Surprise' 4W-Y may be an improvement in their sub division. 'Mamma Mia' 4Y-P represents the first Irish introduction in this sub division but I understand there are more to come. I have seen 4W-W and 4W-Y seedlings with high petal counts and there are likely to be 4O-R introductions in the future.

Higher Divisions

In the higher divisions there have been few Irish introductions with any striking colour improvements. As for division 9 we will have to wait and see if colour improvements are possible. In contrast division 11 has seen some startling colour improvements with Brian Duncan's latest offerings; 'Jodi' 11bW-P/W, 'Maria Pia' 11aY-R and 'Tickled Pink' 11a Y-P.

To sum up there are clear advances in novel and more intense colours in some sub divisions while others seem to be marking time. Where are the division 1 rims, the improved division 2 reds and the division 6's with

orange perianths to name but a few? There are still numerous gaps to be filled and more than enough challenges to keep breeders (both amateur and professional) busy for a few generations to come.

PINK IN DIVISION THREE

Nial Watson

At the beginning of the twentieth century the idea of pink daffodils would have seemed extraordinary and although there are now numerous examples of pink in divisions one, two, four and eleven there are still very few in division three. The Brodie of Brodie in Scotland registered a pink div 3 in 1910, '*Fairy Circle*' 3W-P from an Engleheart, *N. poeticus* seedling x '*Mrs C Bowley*' 3W-O from W. Backhouse. Nine years later he used the same name to register a 3W-WWP using '*Pinkie*' 9W-WWP from Mrs R O Backhouse and '*Hypatia*' 3W-GYY from J C Williams. Although these were registered as pink they were not the pure pink seen in modern div 2s.

As the century progressed more hybridisers around the world were attempting to breed pink in div. 3. Stephen Bisdie in Australia registered '*Astroite*' 3W-GPP in 1923, bred from '*Dactyl*', a div. 9. Guy Wilson also produced div 3 pinks including '*Fairy Moon*' 3W-GWP from '*Cantabile*'. Most of these early pinks had *N. poeticus* in their parents but by the end of the twentieth century more and more small cupped div 2s were being used and in some cases, such as Murray Evans'

'*Newcomer*' ('*Quasar*' x '*Everpink*' seedling), div 2 with larger cups. By this time the pink was becoming much more of a true pink and Murray Evans' '*Everpink*' was appearing amongst the parents. Brian Duncan introduced his first pink div 3s and noticeable in the parentage of these was '*Cupid's Eye*' 3Y-GYP. '*Eyelet*' 3W-P, '*Eyelet*' 3W-P and '*Eyrie*' 3W-YYP were all crosses of '*Cupid's Eye*' and ('*High Society*' x '*Valinor*').

Over the past ten years there have been a number of new varieties registered. They are all beautiful flowers and have one thing in common, they all have *N. poeticus* somewhere in their background. David Jackson in Australia - '*Corker*'; Dave Karnstedt in the USA - '*Dave's Gift*'; John Reed in the USA - '*Garden Gate*'; Peter Ramsay in New Zealand, - '*Pink Spice*'; Ronald White in England - '*Zoe's Pink*' and Brian Duncan with '*Panorama Pink*', are all among them. There have also been several introductions from Brian that are almost true red or at least scarlet and are registered as pink. The best known of these are '*Dena*' and '*Coral Glow*'.

What lies in the future? Well there are very few 3Y-Ps. John Pearson's '*Rosevine*' and Brian Duncan's '*Cupid's Eye*' and '*Picatou*' also have *N. poeticus* in their background to give them the colour in the corona. However, the perianths do not have the colour that the div. 2 Y-Ps have. This is where I believe the work of the future lies in division three pinks.

For this article I have used the RHS International Register and Classified list 1998 and its supplements, Daffseek and daffodil catalogues to provide information.

SEEDLINGS IN THE NEW ZEALAND SHOW SCENE

Wilf Hall (Levin, N.Z.)

Raising one's own seedlings is something undertaken by most serious daffodil exhibitors in New Zealand. Some raise large numbers of seedlings, other only a few, the latter usually having restricted space to plant out the numbers required to get them through to flowering.

In our Show Schedules (we have two National shows each year, one in each major island), there is an open section set aside just for seedlings. This section contains 19 classes, 18 of them single bloom/stem classes, the nineteenth being a class for six varieties. All seedlings need to have been raised by the exhibitor. A seedling can only be exhibited in the seedling section of the schedules, for three years from the date of first flowering. Thus a seedling having a maiden flower in 2007, will not be eligible for seedling classes after 2009. It can still be exhibited while under number after 2009, but not in the seedling classes. The Premier seedling blooms of our two National shows can be chosen only from the seedling classes. The amateur sections of the schedules do not have any single bloom classes for seedlings raised by exhibitor, but there is a class for 6 daffodils raised by the exhibitor, but the flowers can be registered named varieties and there is no age limit. These flowers are not eligible for Premier seedling.

Seedlings which fall within the three year limit, are not restricted to the seedling section. Where they are

exhibited often depends on the classes or trophies an exhibitor is keen to win. An exhibitor with a promising white trumpet seedling might want to win the Seedling Trophy for premier seedling. On the other hand the exhibitor might not have won the Guy Wilson Cup for nine white trumpets in the North Island and the seedling might just provide the winning 9th bloom.

When the National Daffodil Society of N.Z. was founded in 1926, there were a number of keen hybridisers producing seedlings, but the major class in our schedule was for British Raised Daffodils. Now that we as a country have severed many other ties with the Mother Country, we daffodil growers now put much more emphasis on N.Z. raised daffodils. With the increasing worries about bio-security (our main exports are still largely agricultural, horticultural or from forestry), it is becoming increasingly difficult to import the best from overseas. Raising new varieties here, has become more of a priority.

Because of our small population of just over 4 million people, not many people make a living out of selling daffodil bulbs. The vast majority of our "Open" grade exhibitors are basically just amateurs who are looking for the challenge of competing against all-comers. It follows that many of the leading hybridizers are amateurs as well.

Who is doing the hybridizing and what are they producing? The leading hybridizers in Divisions 1-4 are the team from Koanga Daffodils (Dr. Peter Ramsay and Max Hamilton), Spud Brogden, John Hunter and Colin Crotty. These gentlemen have produced a wide range of new varieties in Div. 1-4 but have had their particular

successes – John with pink daffodils, Colin with small cup yellow/reds and brightly coloured Div. 2 pinks, Spud with large cup yellow/reds and Max with doubles, where he has been recently overshadowed by Peter with some stunning seedlings. It is hard to pick out any particular special success for Peter, as he has produced very nice flowers now in all the first 4 divisions. It is also hard to pick out the best from such a great bunch, most of which have names starting with his trademark 'Cameo', but 'Blossom Lady' (4W-R) would have to be one of my favourites.

Peter has stuck fairly firmly with Divisions 1-4, but the others have not turned their backs on other divisions. Max has for many years, been attempting to breed earlier flowering poets so that they can be seen at the earlier shows. He has raised a number of rather unique ones, including controversial all white, and white and yellow hybrids. The parents have all been poets. However, I still feel his more traditional 'Tinopai' (Maori for very good), is the one to beat. Colin has been working with split coronas for many years and he has produced some superb ones in a number of colour combinations. He is now virtually impossible to beat when exhibiting in the Split corona collection class. Look out for 'Caramel Joy' (very aptly named), 'Solar Disc' (Y-Y), and CC1-00 with its very distinct collar with equal bands of yellow and deep orange. He is achieving very good perianths in line with distinct coronas.

Spud Brogden still turns out lovely smooth 2Y-R, 2W-Y, 2W-W and Div. 3 seedlings but has also been particularly keen on trying to improve yellow-pink flowers and develop small cup reverse bi-colours. His

greatest success with the latter sub-division has been 'Wild Card'. John Hunter has also covered a wide range of hybridizing lines – in fact he has won National Premier Bloom Certificates for every division from 1-7 and 11. That is premiers from eight divisions, a record for a N.Z. hybridiser. Tazettas and Poets have so far eluded him. He is best known for his pink daffodils, with perhaps 'Polar Sky' with its exemplary form being the best known here. He has produced excellent small cups including 'Polar Morn' and 'Polar Convention' (both 3W-W) a very promising 2Y-R ('Navigator') and his split corona still under number (40/91B), has won several National premiers.

However, in recent years John has had a great deal of success hybridizing other divisions. He has done a lot of work with autumn flowering *N. viridiflorus*, with 'Emerald Sea' being the most notable of his early seedlings. He has a very attractive seedling from 'Grand Monarque' x 'Emerald Sea'. He has also produced excellent lines of triandrus and jonquilla seedlings. He now has no trouble putting up collection class entries of these two divisions, using only his seedlings under number. His latest little treasure is a reverse bi-colour cyclamineus which has been registered as 'Flight Path'.

Snapping at the heels of the main hybridisers is Graeme Miller, who has mainly been involved in producing seedlings from Div's. 1-3. 'Wayby' (a small very smooth 2Y-R, and 'Carl Wyllie' (1W-W) are fine examples of his first registrations. He has however, produced a number of cyclamineus hybrids, but more recently miniature and intermediate seedlings have started to appear.

Below the main group of hybridizers are a second group of enthusiasts, many of whom have chosen to concentrate on certain divisions or sub-divisions as against spreading their effort. John Byrne had a good measure of success in the 1990's with his tazetta seedlings from 'Matador', 'Kahurangi' being the most successful. However, problems with sterility and the inability to line breed has turned John elsewhere. He has found a new niche in yellow-pinks, with his 'Brazen' now one of the better coloured available here. John McLennan has specialized in doubles and has an extensive range of attractive seedlings in his stable. Of the named ones, perhaps his 'Brass Button' a deep yellow intermediate double would be the best known to kiwis.

I have also followed the niche path with my tazettas and despite the sterility problem, I have kept plugging on. In 2006 I veered off course a little with the first flowers from a cross of 'Limequilla' with John Hunter's 2W-P Intermediate, 'Elfin Dell'. This has proved to be one of those 'wonder crosses' with two premier blooms from the first season of flowers and several others winning jonquilla classes or being placed. David Adams has tended to spread his efforts over a wider group, with his best results so far being with split coronas and some miniature seedlings.

Hybridising seems to be a largely male dominated scene here in N.Z. At the moment we have only one from the fairer sex, who is actively hybridizing. Denise McQuarrie is known mainly from the poet seedlings she raised from the cross of 'Cantabile' with the most famous N.Z. raised poet 'Rondo'. She has exhibited them with a great deal of success and hopefully she will register some

soon as they are worthy examples of the type. However, Denise has not neglected the major divisions and she has some very good flowers from those so much so that she was able to win the N.D.S. Raisers Cup class (12 varieties raised by exhibitor), in the South Island in 2003 from four other entries. The entry received a great deal of praise for the quality and range of the flowers, and there wasn't a poet amongst them.

There is also a group of up and coming hybridisers who are starting to make their mark. Malcolm Wheeler's main interest is in miniatures, but he is also turning out some lovely standard flowers. At the South Island National in Winton this year, Malcolm showed some exciting miniature triandrus seedlings and several flowers from the cross of *N. atlanticus* with poet pollen. One of these was judged best miniature. Alistair Davey, who has made his mark in breeding some highly regarded mini decorative and ball dahlias, has recently burst on the daffodil seedling scene with some very attractive flowers. If he can produce the same result that he has had with dahlias, he will be a force to be reckoned with in the next few years with his daffodils.

Wayne Hughes is another, who has suddenly appeared as a major new force, though he has been winning the amateur seedling collection for a number of years. Last year at the North Island National he took many by surprise by winning the N.D.S. Raisers Cup from seasoned Graham Phillips and Graeme and Faith Miller. This year he did the same at Winton, beating Pleasant Valley Daffodils (Colin Crotty and his step-son Gordon Coombes) and the Millers. To win this cup you need a wide variety of distinct flowers and his flowers

demonstrated that he has not restricted himself. However, Intermediates are his favourite group. Last year he won the Intermediate collection class in the N.I. with 6 seedlings (including his very first registration, the 2W-W 'Tayforth Gem') and at the S.I. he was placed 3rd in the same class with 5 of his flowers being seedlings under number. He was placed first at both this year's Nationals and was also second in the Hamilton show, with over half his flowers being his own seedlings.

I have recently provided an article for our N.Z. Daffodil Annual (2007) on the rise to prominence of seedlings from the N.O.E. classes. In our open seedling classes there is an N.O.E. class where triandrus, jonquilla, tazetta, poet and split coronas are lumped together. Cyclamineus are privileged to have their own class. The N.O.E. class is often a hard class to judge with such a wide range of flowers. I surveyed National Show results from 1970 to 2006 and found that these particular groups really started coming into their own mid way through the 1990's. Not only did numbered N.O.E. seedlings start winning open single bloom classes, they also started to be used on an increasing scale in open collections, where named cultivars were previously the norm. In the decade 1970-1979, only three N.O.E. seedlings were awarded premier status and they were all poets. In the eight years from 2000-2007 no fewer than 32 N.O.E. flowers were awarded premier certificates when shown under number. Division 5 had six, Division 7 had five, Division 8 had four, Division 9 had ten and Division 11 had seven. The most successful hybridiser was John Hunter with five Div. 5 premiers, four Div. 11 and three Div. 7. Max Hamilton bred seven of the

premiers. His were all poets.

Daffodil hybridizing is very much alive and well in New Zealand. While most concentrate on the first four daffodil divisions, there has been renewed interest in the lower divisions. At the 2006 S.I. National in Ashburton numbered seedlings completely dominated the lower divisional collections. 15 of the 18 flowers in the triandrus collection class placed entries were seedlings under number; in the jonquil collection class, all nine stems in the winning entry were seedlings under number as were eight in the winning class for 9 stems tazetta; fourteen of the 18 poets were seedlings under number. This was a truly remarkable situation.

Noteworthy Diary Dates

Sat. 30th August

Visit to Lisadell Gardens Sligo

Sun. 28th September

Talk by Liam Caughey - His latest Alpine Trip

Sun. 26th October

Bulb auction & Seedlings of the season talk

Sun. 30th November

Lecture of the year by John Blanchard:-
Trips to Morocco.

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Show Dates

29 th March	South County Dublin Show
29 th March	Coleraine Spring Show
5 th April	Hillsborough Spring Show
5 th April	City of Derry Spring Show
12 th April	Enniskillen Show
19 th 20 th April	City of Belfast Spring Fair
26 th April	Ballymena Spring Show
3 rd May	Omagh Spring Show
11 th May	NIDG Late Show—Ringhaddy

NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP			
<i>Summary of Income and Expenditure Year ending 31/12/2007</i>			
Income		Expenditure	
Balance B/F	£13,141.37	Journal	£303.11
Subscriptions	£156.00	Sec. Expenses	£122.48
Bulb sale Ballymoney	£60.00	Balance House	£320.00
Bulb sale Autumn Show	£401.30	UlsterBullion Co.	£198.97
Bulb Auction	£294.00	Speakers	£115.00
Books and plants	£15.00	Benvarden	£25.00
Interest	£359.54	Belfast Parks	£30.00
		Colemans	£30.00
		Belfast Show	£57.35
		Website	£100.00
		Bank Charges	£6.38
		Balance C/F	£13,118.92
	£14,427.21		£14,427.21