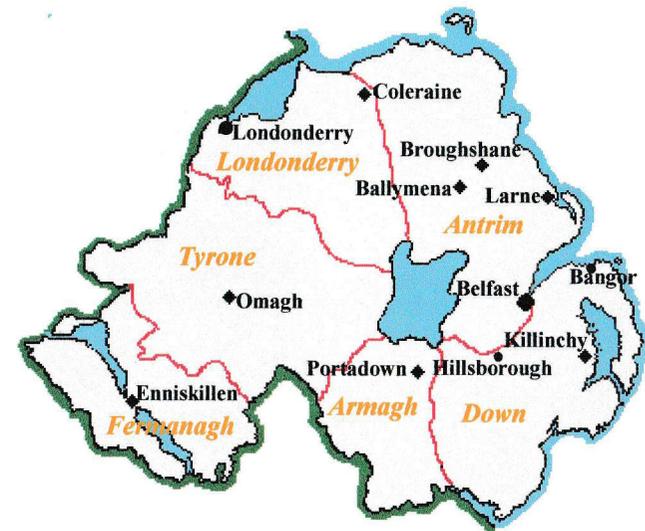


Newsletter

of the

Northern Ireland

Daffodil Group



Spring 2009
Issue

Half yearly publication

Winter Show Blooms



Class 1 top n. bulbocodium Morocco type
left n. cantabricus monophyllus; right n. bulbocodium viriditubus



Class 2 Sdg 3021

THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP NEWSLETTER

VOL 7 NO. 3

2009

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CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Deirdre Cairns

Our recent Winter Show in Balance House really brought it home to those present that Spring had at last "sprung". Bulbocodiums of every shade of yellow, Irises going through the blue purple spectrum and many lovely snowdrops were on view. We have endured a long cold winter, the coldest for eighteen years according to the Meteorologists but at last the daffodil season beckons.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank some of the people who keep our group going forward. Last April the NIDG under the able chairmanship of Brian Duncan, hosted the Northern Ireland leg of the World Daffodil Convention. When the delegates moved on to the Netherlands the Dix Medal was presented to Brian, honouring his outstanding work as a daffodil hybridizer. We are very proud of his achievements and wish him well for the coming season.

Derrick Turbitt has agreed to carry on as our very able Honorary Treasurer and James Smyth is now our Vice Chairman and Honorary Secretary

I also wish to thank Maurice Kerr and George Wilson who always manage to produce an excellent Newsletter.

The committee have planned a full programme for 2009. This includes the special lecture which will be given by Ron Scamp

Belfast remains the pinnacle of our Spring Show season. It will be held once again at Malone house and

our hope is that the entries will be at least as good as last year. At this point I would like to thank Belfast Parks for their continued support of our Group and for their very warm welcome to the World Convention last season.

I would like to finish by saying thank you to the members who support our monthly meetings. Also to express my gratitude to the Alpine Society who attend and participate in many of our events. Hopefully this year we can attract some new members and encourage them to grow and show daffodils.

Thank you for all your support and help and I wish everyone a successful daffodil show season.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

James Smyth

The World Convention was without doubt the highlight of our year with 76 delegates from all over the world gracing our shores at daffodil time. It was good to see friends from previous visits and make new friends with those who were visiting for the first time .

Sincere thanks to Niall Watson for leading the Convention Committee whose planning was excellent over the 4 days. Even the weather could not have been better.

Brian Duncan, our Chairman was to receive a big surprise when the Convention members travelled to Holland. He was awarded the Dix Medal by the President of the Royal General Bulb growers Association for his enormous contribution to the

development of the modern Narcissus. Five of our members were there to help him celebrate such a wonderful achievement.

Belfast Show was only a part of the World Convention, but it was a real show case for Northern Ireland daffodils. Over 4,000 people visited the 2 day show. That's nearly 650 up on the previous year. There were 146 more exhibits than in 2007. The biggest increase in numbers was in the Novice Section. What a display! 69 more exhibits than in 2007. Congratulations to Raymond Copeland who won the overall Best Vase of three with 3 'Glassnevin' blooms entered in the Novice Section.

The August visit to Lisadell House and Gardens in Sligo was a very pleasant social outing . It is one of the best Irish gardens I have experienced. It had a beautiful Alpine garden and an excellent kitchen garden .

Liam and Joan McCaughey gave the September talk. A trip to Kazakstan (with over 2,000 pictures to choose from) gave us a glimpse into their great botanical knowledge and photographic skills.

Our special lecture in November was by John Blanchard V.M.H. on wild daffodils. He showed us the lengths he and his son went to, to photograph daffodils in the wild, even in blizzards and on inaccessible ledges.

Let us move swiftly on to 2009. Just one minor change to report in the Belfast Show.

Lisa Cassidy has been seconded by another department but may be back again in the future. Brian McKinley will be Show Secretary and Show Manager is as always Alice Blennerhassett. Staying with the show

season, Enniskillen hosts the Sliver Thread Award on Saturday 4th April and Ballymena hosts the Amateur Championship of Ireland on Saturday 18th April.

In the 2009 programme of events we have planned a lively Winter show, a trip to Dublin's gardens and a talk from two very distinguished gentlemen, namely Harold McBride from the Alpine Society and Ron Scamp from Quality Daffodils in Cornwall.

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

EDITORS NOTES

Maurice Kerr

There are signs of spring in the air after one of the wettest autumn's followed by the coldest winter for many years. It is many years since we have seen more snow and frost during the winter. Hopefully now that the days are stretching and the sun is climbing in the sky we will get a good spring. 'Tete a Tete' has just come into bloom and is putting on a nice show despite the weather. There are definite signs of spring and it may well be an early one for the daffodils judging by the way mine have progressed these last few days.

I have decided to try to carry on the idea of printing photographs inside the cover to try and do justice to the winter and spring shows. I have Derrick Turbitt to thank for many of the photographs used in this edition.

Hopefully everyone will find something of

interest in the articles included from a stroll down memory lane where we reproduce reports on the inaugural Belfast Spring Show held in Maysfield Leisure Centre 20 years ago. Garden News and Don Barnes the author of one report have kindly given permission for it to be reproduced. The other comes from my highly esteemed predecessor who is sadly missed. Members should find this interesting from the historical point of view and it will evoke many fond memories of those who have passed on.

We have a profile of our new Chairperson Deirdre Cairns and a report on the early show. Included also is an article on the use of garlic and slugs in relation to hostas which Ian Scroggy sent me some time ago and which got overlooked probably due to one of my computer problems in the not too distant past. George as usual has provided me with another article which should set us thinking about the history of many of the blooms we often rely on at show time, a report on the Winter Show and an article from a Swedish member on moving daffodils.

It is some time since I published the rules of the NIDG and as we have quite a few new members (it will also serve as a refresher for us all) I am printing these at the end of the newsletter.

May I wish you all a pleasant and successful show season in 2009.

The following article is reproduced (with the permission of the publisher and author) from a report by Don Barnes in Garden News dated 3rd June 1989

New Irish festival is a success

Don Barnes

The city's recreation department has hosted a number of successful Autumn events and after initiatives from the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group held a highly successful first Spring Flower Festival.

Almost 1,000 competitive entries were staged from daffodils to tulips and alpiners to wine. The Maysfield Sports Centre proved to be an ideal venue and attracted a steady stream of visitors to view the exhibits and to enjoy the programme of special events which had been arranged for the two days with the sponsorship of the Ulster Bank.

The major daffodil class was the Championship of Ireland calling for 12 blooms from not less than three divisions. Kate Reade of Carncairn Daffodils won the class with a splendid set of clean fresh flowers - her first success in this class which has previously moved around the different local shows.

Much of the credit for the fine collection was passed on to husband Robin who had done the actual staging' and setting up of an impressive trade display. The set was seedling S2/8/82, 'Doctor Hugh', 'Achduart', 'OykeI', (subsequently champion bloom. Division 3), 'Impala', 'Loughanmore', 'Portnagolan', 'Emily', 'Bunclody', Seed-ling 5/30/69, Seedling 1/30/82 and 'Ashmore'.

Sandy McCabe, secretary of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group, won the Amateur Championship of Ireland Class.

Appropriately he included a splendid bloom of Ulster Bank in his 12, a fact not unnoticed by the sponsors of the festival ! It was a close contest with seven entries but Sandy was delighted with his prize. his other blooms being 'Cool Crystal', 'Achduart', 'Scarlet Thread', 'Midas Touch', 'Golden Joy', 'Bright Spark', 'Badbury Rings', 'Parterre', 'Fragrant Rose', 'Comal' and 'Merlin'.

Other daffodil awards were spread across a number of keen growers. Brian Duncan, in addition to putting up a small trade display featuring pink cupped varieties, staged the winning set of six vases of three to win the Royal Mail Trophy using interesting varieties of his own raising - 'Smokey Bear', 'Pink Pageant', 'Silver Crystal', 'Gold Finger', D876 and 'High Society'.

Brian also staged a splendid golden yellow seedling (D916) which took the award for Best Seedling, Champion Bloom Division 1 and overall Best Bloom in Show. After many successes in the daffodils Brian also took First Prizes for tulips and hyacinths in other sections of the show

Maurice Kerr, a teacher of Craft, Design and Technology (CDT) in a local Belfast School, had a highly successful show gaining the B. S. Duncan Award for the highest aggregate of points in the Amateur Single Bloom Classes.

Some of these classes commanded over 20 entries and Maurice had made two trips with

blooms filling the car and also arrived on Saturday morning with some doubles which had been carefully nurtured in the warmth of his dining room to bring them to perfection and give a few extra points.

William Dukelow is usually somewhere in contention at the Northern Ireland Shows and for the Festival he staged a wonderful bloom of 'Golden Aura', which was Best Bloom in the Amateur Section and overall Champion Bloom Division 2.

William also produced a wonderfully smooth 2W-W seedling which was judged best seedling in the Amateur Section against seedlings produced by other amateur and commercial raisers;

Richard McCaw was the most successful novice exhibitor in the three bloom classes. John O'Reilly staged a splendid vase of the true cyclamineus hybrid 'Lilac Charm' (6W-P) which caused some debate among the international contingent of judges (U.S.A., Latvia, New Zealand and U.K.) as to which of the three blooms was the most perfect but at the end of the debate there was agreement that his bloom was the overall Champion from Divisions 5 to 9.

The alpine section was also well supported. Carol McCutcheon, after a successful show the previous weekend, staged a number of fine exhibits but the real talking point among exhibitors was a delightful specimen of *Erinacea pungeus* displaying a wonderful clean crop of bloom.

Many visitors were fascinated by Carol's pan

planted as a colourful miniature garden. James Price of Newtownabbey, was delighted with his range of firsts, seconds and thirds and rightly proud of his specimen of rhododendron Widgeon which he has now mastered and gave him first in a hotly contested class.

NORTHERN IRELAND SHOW REPORT

Sandy McCabe

(The following excerpt comes from the 1989 Newsletter.)

And so to the main event of the year-the Belfast Spring Festival. The inaugural Provincial Show was launched on 29th/30th April, 1989 at Maysfield Leisure Centre, Belfast, after many years of planning. The Festival was officially opened by the Lord Major of Belfast - Alderman Nigel Dodds.

By one of those quirks of fate, the Province was being visited by noted daffodil enthusiasts from all over the globe. Richard and Kitty Frank from Tennessee, Janis Ruksans from Latvia joined forces with Alf Chappell from New Zealand to assist the principal judge - Don Barnes from Sheffield. It is doubtful if we will ever be able to attract as many eminent daffodil personalities at the relevant time in future years.

The Festival was an undoubted success and attracted 1,524 visitors. When one remembers that the many counter attractions included Greenmount

Spring Fair, a festival of flowers at Belfast Castle and many other events, this figure is quite remarkable. Local shows are lucky if they can muster 200.

The organisation was excellent. The thanks of the N.I.D.G. are due to the Belfast City Parks Department for their enthusiasm and hard work. For an initial venture it ran like clockwork and while some lessons were learned, by and large it proved to be an outstanding event.

The Championship of Ireland only attracted two entries. The peculiarities of the season contributed to the small field. Michael Ward from Dublin had no flowers left. I, myself, had only sufficient flowers to enter one group of 12 in the Amateur Senior. However next year we intend to make the professionals work harder for their success.

Carncairn Daffodils took the honours in the Championship. Kate Reade staged her best group ever to relegate Brian Duncan into second place. Outstanding blooms in Kate's group were 'Doctor Hugh', 'Oykel', 'Achduart' and 'Ashmore'. 'Oykel' was selected as Best Division 3 in the Show. Brian included D.916 (1Y-Y) which was Best Bloom in the Show, Best Division 1 and Best Unregistered Seedling. Other noteworthy blooms were 'Goldfinger', 'Silver Crystal' and D.1161 (2W-GYP).

The Royal Mail Trophy for 6 varieties - 3 blooms of each -Irish raised - went to Brian Duncan. Best in the winning group were 'Silver

Crystal' and 'Pink Pageant'. Carncairn were runners-up showing attractive vases of 'Spring Valley' and 1/30/82 (2W-R). Choice of my third place entry were 'Amber Castle' and 'Fair Prospect'. Carncairn took the W. H. Roese Bowl (for 5 American raised) for the umpteenth time with 'Impala', 'Symphonette', 'Derg Castle', 'Curtsey' and 'Close Encounter'. The remaining classes in the Open Section are for single blooms which must be seedlings or cultivars which are not in commerce. This restriction will have to be eased in the future as it precludes the leading amateurs for the most part.

Ballydorn, Carncairn and B. S. Duncan vied for the honours. Winning blooms which caught the eye were 'Cia ridges' (4W-P) which was Best Division 4 in the Show and 'Coromandel' (2Y-Y)-an exceptionally smooth flower. Was Ballydorn's winning seedling in the Division 9 class really a Poeticus? I was not alone in thinking that it was a Division 3.

The Amateur Championship attracted 5 entries from 4 competitors. Maurice Kerr was determined to "fill the benches" for the public to see and entered two groups of 12. His third placing might have been higher if he had concentrated on just one. His better group included a magnificent specimen of 'Midas Touch' and good examples of 'Mentor' and 'Halstock'. John O'Reilly in second place could have done with slightly larger flowers but showed 'Gay Kybo', 'Cairntoul', 'Rainbow' and 'Mount Angel' to good advantage.

The best of my winning 12 were 'Achduart', 'Bright Spark', 'Bad-bury Rings' and 'Fragrant Rose'. The first 3 named flowers were successfully shown in Omagh the week before and survived the journey home plus a week's refrigeration with no ill effects.

Maurice Kerr, John O'Reilly and Sam Dukelow from Omagh monopolised the collection classes in the Amateur Senior with Maurice winning the inaugural Tom Bloomer Memorial Award for most points in the section. Jack Carlisle, William Dukelow (Sam's son) and I joined these three in some excellent competition in the single bloom classes. Maurice Kerr added to his silver cleaning bill this year by winning the Brian Duncan Award for most points while Sam Dukelow picked up the Don Barnes Award for best bloom in the section with 'Golden Aura'. This flower was also adjudged Best Division 2 in the Show. William Dukelow took the Northern Bank Trophy for best seedling (confined to Amateur) with one of his own flowers bred from 'Silent Valley' and 'Easter Moon'.

Some of the single bloom classes had between 15 and 20 entries. One judge was heard to comment that it was the hardest day's judging that he had ever undertaken.

The Novice Section was equally well contested with Richard McCaw winning the Novice Championship. His group of 9 was extremely well staged with his 'Silent Morn' picking up the accolade of Best Bloom in the

Section. Two newcomers to the daffodil exhibition scene filled the minor places. George Jordan from Omagh had fine specimens of 'Unique' and 'Namraj' in his second placed entry while C. Holmes from Carrickfergus showed 'Olympic Gold' to perfection.

In the Novice Single Bloom classes it was gratifying to see Fred White making a comeback. Along with his townsmen Albert Allen and George Jordan the trio from Omagh fought a keen tussle with Richard McCaw. Between the four they monopolised the prizes with Albert Allen picking up the award for most points.

Carncairn and Brian Duncan staged two colourful and well presented Trade Stands while the N.I.D.G. exhibited several blooms on which they asked the general public to vote by placing money in collection boxes. The proceeds were divided between the Save the Children Fund and Action Cancer. Bunches of flowers and catalogues were also sold and over £135 was raised for the two charities.

For the record, 'Pireaus' (4W-R), 'Golden Jewel' and 'Fragrant Rose' raised most money.

All sections of the show, i.e. daffodils, tulips, floral art, paintings, photography, etc. attracted 883 exhibits. That daffodils were the main feature is borne out by the fact that there were 533 daffodil exhibits. Many spectators were in awe at the differing varieties and specimens on display and I think we were successful in widening the appeal of the daffodil to the general public.

That said, it must also be admitted too many terrible flowers were also shown. However it is hoped that the novices will have learnt from their experience and will gain help and encouragement from the many magnificent blooms on display.

So what of the future? Plans are already under way to repeat the venture at the same venue next year. Dates chosen are 28th and 29th April, 1990 so I'll appeal now to exhibitors on the mainland to prepare to come over. We have supported the mainland shows for years and would like you to reciprocate.

In conclusion may I thank the members of the N.I.D.G. and the Belfast City Parks Department for their help, support and encouragement in making one of my dreams come true.

DEIRDRE CAIRNS

George Wilson



Deirdre Cairns the new Chairperson of the NIDG is in a unique position in that she is the first representative of the fair sex to hold this post. Hopefully the following paragraphs will give an insight into how this situation came about and how Deirdre feels about the job ahead and how she views other aspects of her busy life. Busy, she certainly is as she holds down a full time post as a

Medical Laboratory Scientist in the University Hospital in Dublin as well as being involved in pastimes as diverse as sailing, specialist car runs, singing in a community choir, keeping the family up to speed and just in case she has any spare time she grows and shows daffodils! Her sense of fun comes to the surface when she talks about the car outings, she says it is mainly her husband's thing and she only goes when the outings finish at a garden! The choir involves one night of rehearsals each week, concerts, and a trip to somewhere in Europe on a biennial basis. Her other family members are, husband Ken, two daughters Jennifer and Susan, a son Stephen, a granddaughter Leah and a grandson Dylan.

Deirdre started showing daffodils about ten years ago and even that story has a touch of humour attached to it. David Walsh the renowned fuscia grower travelled to Dublin to exhibit begonias and in conversation with him Deirdre expressed the opinion that she didn't think she could grow and show any type of plants. To which David replied 'Try something like daffodils, they are easy to grow'. In order to get this new venture started David bought some bulbs at the N.I.D.G. bulb auction and sent them off to Dublin where they were grown in flower buckets suitably drilled by Deirdre herself to facilitate drainage. The first to flower was Kate Reade's 'Bailey' (20-O) the colour of which was so amazing that she was instantly 'hooked' and to this day remembers seeing the flower for the first time. The resulting enthusiasm led her to enter the daffodil section at Malahide Spring Show where she won the cup for that section and she was now heading down the

familiar daffodil one way trail. Further exhibiting success followed at Howth and the increasing interest level and pressure from family members who kept falling over her pots led her to apply for an allotment.

Unfortunately the Donabate soil proved to be more suited to brick manufacture (Deirdre's description) and she was back to square one. At this stage she had a stroke of luck as a friend offered her the use of an overgrown walled garden. With typical determination she hired a suitable machine, cut down the undergrowth and sprayed the remaining unwanted foliage. This clearance revealed the presence of beds that hadn't been used for tens of years. Initially her rapidly increasing collection of daffodils flourished in this environment, but they seem to loose vigour in after years, something Deirdre is evaluating and will no doubt overcome.

Following her success in local shows Deirdre came to Belfast Spring Show on a reconnoitring trip and was in her words 'Gob smacked' at what she saw. Needless to say she was greeted warmly by the N.I.D.G. aficionados and having met Betty and Brian Duncan she gained valuable staging tips from Brian. However, with typical self appraisal Deirdre says her staging is still not at the level she would like. History, however records that her flowers and staging skills have been good enough to win the Novice section in Belfast on three occasions during a period when competition in this section grew almost beyond recognition. She now enjoys the challenge of competing in the Senior Amateur and Open classes at Belfast and the various N.I.D.G. shows where she stages excellent blooms from

Early Show 09



Chairperson Deirdre Cairns, James Smyth and Dan McCormick at the Early Show



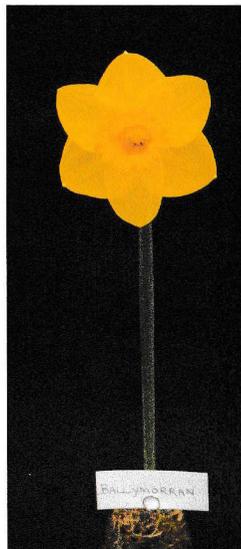
Ian Scroggy & Philip Wallace judging at the Early Show



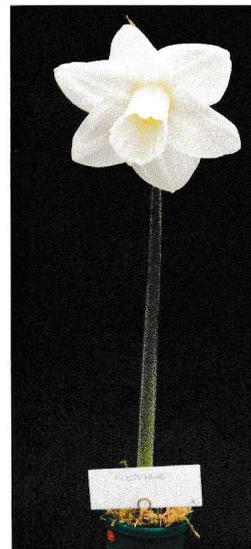
R. Campbell's 'Surrey'
Best Bloom in Show



G. Wilson's 'Ethos'



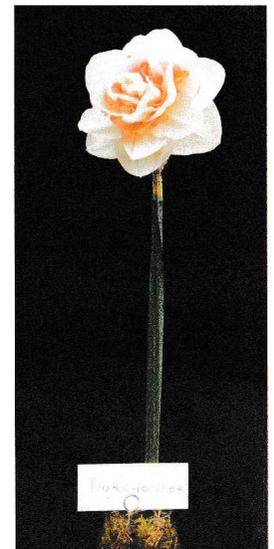
R. Campbell's
'Ballymorran'



G. Wilson's
'Fletching'



G. Wilson's 'Corbiere,



R. Campbell's
'Dorchester,

across the divisions and gains well deserved results.

As all N.I.D.G. members know by now Deirdre is a charming outgoing lady who loves to socialize and enjoys the company of fellow enthusiasts. It comes as a bit of a surprise therefore to discover she is not totally at ease with her role as chairperson of the group. It would appear that Deirdre feels she has almost come too far too soon in the daffodil world but needless to say she is determined to do her utmost to fulfil the role. Judging by the acumen she displayed in coping with the non appearance of a speaker at a recent group meeting she really has no need to doubt her own ability. What undoubtedly Deirdre doesn't realise is how much she is appreciated within the group for her warmth, enthusiasm, hard work, organisational skills, and willingness to help in any way possible. In other words she has all the attributes required to make an ideal Chairperson and Deirdre will no doubt conduct the role to perfection.

NIDG Fourth Winter Flower Show
Sunday 22nd. February 2009

As usual this show was supported by entries from members of The Alpine Society and as ever they produced a wide variety of plants and blooms as a consequence of which the show bench was a blaze of Spring colours. Brian Duncan and Derrick Turbitt were the main winners from the N.I.D.G. entrants while Alf Robbins and June Dougherty from the Alpine Society also had an excellent day. Alf had a clean sweep in the potted Iris class and June did likewise in

the class for marked or spotted Helebores. After judging there was an impromptu talk by each of the main winners on the care and/or propagation of their winning plants. This was a new innovation and was both informative and entertaining especially as it took most of the winners totally by surprise. Let's hope they all return next year!

RESULTS

Section A Miniature Narcissus, Species or Cultivar

Class 1 3 Stems

- 1st. B. Duncan *N. bulbocodium (Morocco)*
- 2nd. B. Duncan
- 3rd. D. Turbitt 'Small Talk' op

Class 2 One Pot

- 1st. B. Duncan Sdg. 3021 10Y-Y
- 2nd. B. Duncan Sdg. 0819 *N. cyclamineous*
- 3rd. B. Duncan Sdg. 0509 *N. bulbocodium*

Class 3 Seedling

- 1st. D. Turbitt Sdg. 0806
- 2nd. B. Duncan Sdg. 3091
- 3rd. B. Duncan Sdg. 3014 'Cambourne' x *N. asturiansis*

Section B Galanthus, Species or Cultivar

Class 4 3 Stems

- 1st. D. Turbitt
- 2nd. D. Turbitt
- 3rd. G. Wilson

Class 5 Pot

- 1st. B. Duncan 'Compton Court'
2nd. B. Duncan 'Compton Court'

Section C Crocus

Class 7 Pot named Species or Hybrids

- 1st. D. Turbitt 'Prins'
2nd. D. Turbitt 'Miss vain'
3rd. A. Robbins 'Lady Killer'

Class 8 Pot Large Dutch Crocus

- 1st. D. Turbitt

Section D Bulbous Plant, Any other genus

Class 9 Pot, Iris

- 1st. A. Robbins *reticulata halkis*
2nd. A. Robbins *histordies george*
3rd. A. Robbins *reticulata (sdg)*

Class10 Bulbous one pot

- 1st. B. Duncan Cyclamen
2nd. D. Turbitt Tulip
3rd. D. Wallace Amaralis

Section E Helebores or other non-bulbous plants

Class 11 Three blooms, white or pale shades

- 1st. J. Dougherty
2nd. G. Wilson

- 3rd. D. Cairns

Class12 Three blooms, dark colour

- 1st. J. Dougherty
2nd. D. cairns
3rd. D. Welsh

Class13 Three blooms, marked or spotted

- 1st. J. Dougherty
2nd. J. Dougherty
3rd. J. Dougherty

Class14 Any other genus

- 1st. A. Robbins
2nd. D. Welsh
3rd. D. Cairns

Section F Standard Daffodils

Class15 Yellow

- 1st. D. Turbitt Sdg. C001 6Y-Y
2nd. D. Turbitt Sdg. C001

Class16 White

- 1st. D. Wallace

MOVING DAFFODILS IN 'THE GREEN'

Klass van de Geest

Once upon a time we had a garden in the countryside, but it was necessary to stop gardening there. We had about 300 daffodil varieties there but how could we move them.

Daffodils should be lifted and planted when dormant in summer. The different varieties were mapped and labelled but how could we be certain, which was which?

We decided to move and replant the daffodils when they were in bloom. This is maybe not the best time to move them but they will survive. When replanting in the green you can't have hot water treatment but luckily we have no problems with narcissus fly (I saw my first fly in N. Ireland). If the bulbs are hard and look healthy they should be ok.

Collecting the daffodils sometimes caused friction. When I was lifting my wife would say: "We shall have that variety too." This was not always so easy as the bulbs were planted deep. When lifting we tried to avoid damaging the roots and divided the bulbs carefully. The dividing was done just before planting and if the soil was hard we put the bulbs in a bucket of water to soften the soil.

The new place we were allowed to plant our daffodils was between the houses. It was mostly a badly tended forest with oaks, birches, hazels and some shrubs. There was about 10 cm soil above a tilth with lots of stones and tree roots. There was also a lot of *dactylis glomerata*, a nasty grass. We had used

glyphosate on the grass, the previous summer, and most had died. The weedkiller was used after the spring flowers were dormant. When planting make sure the roots hang down under the bulb and if you want 10cm of soil over the bulb you must make the hole 20 or 30 cm deep. For this work we used a special spade for planting forest trees. It is best to avoid loose planting. As Mr Russell (of lupin fame) said, more lupins have died of too loose planting than of any other reason. Another problem was to avoid damaging the bulbs between stones and tree roots.

It was a hard job but my wife did most of the planting so she could have a chat with the neighbours about the niceties of daffodils. I myself am not that friendly and am tired of folk saying: "Daffodils, are they not all yellow".

As the part of the leaves that were below ground were yellow it was easy to see how deep to plant them and most were planted at their original depth. Any that were planted too shallow should pull themselves down to the proper depth. All were watered after planting so that the roots made good contact with the soil.

Alas it was a dry spring but most bulbs flowered quite well. They should improve next year. We planted about 10 bulbs each of 100 varieties. We avoided planting Y-Y's close to each other and mapped the planting. Children have a habit of removing labels.

If all goes well the daffodils will be there for years and every year we will look forward to spring.

(Klass van de Geest is a member of N.I.D.G. He and his wife visited N.I. in Spring 2007 and visited the Coleraine Show and Brian's. His main interest is historic varieties.)

SLUGS NO MORE!!!!

Ian Scroggy

For the past two years I have been experimenting with different controls to prevent Slug and Snail damage to our Hosta stock on the nursery which also like daffodils. I tried the usual beer traps or milk traps which worked to a certain extent but only worked in a small area around the traps. Hair clippings, egg shells, sharp grit and soot were used with little success if the slugs want to eat they will go over them.

Garlic extract now this is the one that gave the best results with added benefits. I have found this mixture can be bought ready made called "Garlic Barrier". This is one supplier of it but there are many more <http://www.npk.ltd.uk/garlic.htm> As it is totally organic it does no harm to the air or soil it actually improves the vigour of the Hostas and gives the leaves a good sheen which also helps build up good root systems as if the leaves are healthy they are able to produce more food to put back into their roots therefore producing more "eyes" so your plants will bulk up better. It also means you do not have to spray nasty chemicals so much only if you get a sudden outbreak of mildew or botrytis that you would need to spray with a fungicide. Yes I still use commercial grade slug pellets especially before the plants start to emerge as the garlic only works on the foliage. It gives the leaves a nasty taste for the slugs. They will bypass them for a hosta not treated with garlic. With slug pellets I use 80% less than I did before I started using garlic so that is a

marked improvement.

Here is a recipe to make your own. Get two large Garlic bulbs place in a plastic bag get either a roller pin or hammer and crush the garlic. The bag helps to hold the small crushed pieces together. Once finely crushed add contents to two pints of boiling water. Let it boil for 2-3 minutes or until the garlic looks like it is blanched. Let it cool (best to do this outside. it does smell a bit). As soon as it is cooled strain through an old pair of stockings or tights into a jar to filter out the small garlic pieces. Now you have a concentrated liquid of garlic. With this liquid put two tablespoons into your watering can (about two gallon size or 10 litres) and using a fine spray rose on water this over the leaves of your hostas. Best to do it in late afternoon after the strong midday sun has passed over. Spray your plants every 14 days during active growth i.e. from the first shoots starting to emerge to late August/September.

Try making your own garlic spray and just do one or two plants to start with so as you can see the difference with the Hostas that you sprayed and ones you left alone. Within a month you will see a good difference. I know the smell puts people off making their own but it is worth it I can assure you. Make sure when spraying the plants that the leaves are dry so as the spray will stay on the leaves and the liquid will dry on thus giving the protection. I only spray every 14 days but weekly would be even better. "Garlic Barrier" also do a granule form that you can mix in with the compost I tried this on 100 pots of Hostas but did not get the same results as from the liquid sprays but this

was only a small scale trial. It might work for you and there is hardly any smell off the granules.

OLD FRIENDS ARE BEST

George Wilson

At a NIDG quiz the participants were asked to list the three most successful daffodils at the five main UK shows in 2005 as collated by Tony James and published in The Daffodil Society Newsletter. Only one daffodil aficionado answered the question correctly and when the answers were read out quite a few were surprised to find that 'Silent Valley' first registered in 1964 was top flower. Not only that but 'Gay Kybo' registered in 1980 was next most prolific winner, in fact of the top ten winners in the Tony James list only 'Crowndale' in sixth place and Ombersley in ninth place were registered in the nineteen nineties.

Now I fully realise that it takes a while for new registrations to become widely available and be established as winners. But surely there is more to the continuing success of older varieties than a simple lack of distribution of the newer varieties.

Looking in detail at 'Silent Valley' it impresses as a Div.1 of traditional form with the classic flanged trumpet yet it seems to avoid nicking the perianth segments during development and opening. For some observers the corona is somewhat narrow at the base for perfect balance with the overall width of the perianth and it can take some work to get the petals flat enough for

judging. It is however undeniably white when mature and the bright green eye adds to the overall appeal, definitely an eye catching flower in its day. It is however over forty years since it was registered so why is it topping the poll in 2005? It would appear that the bulb growers in Holland may be responsible for a lot of the successes enjoyed by 'Silent Valley' as they are rumoured to have supplied most of bulbs the winners came from. It will be interesting to see how these bulbs perform in the years ahead and if they are still producing winners then we need to find out just what is going on beyond the dykes.

In comparison 'Gay Kybo' is a mere youth having been registered 'only' twenty-five years ago yet in the Div.4W section of results it was streets ahead having literally as many wins as the rest of the contenders added together! Although it has good overall form and substance even G.K.s greatest fan would acknowledge that it rarely is as white as driven snow and I have seen lots of examples (including winners) with extra petals in the back row. Undeniably however for any 4W to succeed overall it has to beat 'Gay Kybo' and as yet that flower has not been produced or has not achieved the necessary bulk of entries to become top flower in this section. It would also appear that the winners came from home produced bulbs. If that is the case are we in for another few decades of 'Gay Kybo' dominance when the Dutch growers start producing 'super bulbs' of this variety?

There are other long term stalwarts in the top ten list such as 'Dailmanach' (1972) and 'Dr. Hugh' (1975) and oldest of all 'Ice Wings' (1958). The names and dates of registration are reproduced below of the flowers mentioned.

'Ice Wings	5W-W	1958
'Silent Valley'	1W-GWW	1964
'Dailmanach'	2W-P	1972
'Dr.Hugh'	3W-GOO	1975
'Gay Kybo'	4W-O	1980
'Altun Ha'	2Y-W	1987
'Crowndale'	4Y-O	1995
'Ombersley'	1Y-Y	1996

Here in the province last season only three of the above list did not figure in winning classes ; these were 'Ice Wings', 'Dailmanach' and 'Ombersley'. 'Altun Ha' and 'Dr. Hugh' both figured strongly around the shows winning on five occasions at least while the others won at least once. This shows that some of the 'old timers' are still worth growing and showing as they still are hard to beat.

(Thanks to Tony James who compiled the 2005 list and to The Daffodil Society for permission to use the results which are a very small part of the analysis published in their Newsletter.)

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The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

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RULES OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

1 Title

The group shall be called "The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group".

3 Objectives

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 paragraph 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, meeting, and displays which include exhibits or material relating to the Narcissus and to which the
- (ix) public is admitted, and wherever held throughout the World; 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 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 28th June **Dublin Gardens Visit** Details Later
- 27th Sept.. **Bulbs for Winter Show** 3pm Balance House
Talk by Harold McBride
- 25th Oct. Bulb Auction 3pm Balance House
Managing Daffodils in Pots
Talk by Brian Duncan
- 29th Nov. **Lecture of the Year** 3pm Balance House
Details later.
- 24th Jan. **AGM & Naturalizing Bulbs**
Talk by Belfast Parks. 3pm Balance House

Winter Show Blooms

Notes



Class 3 Sdg 0806 midget x n cyclamineus



Class 4 galanthus - unknown



Bulbocodium sgd.



Class 5 Pot of galanthus 'Compton Court'



Class 8 Crocus 'Yalta'



Class 10 Iris



N. Papyrus



class 12 Dark hellebore



George recording results.