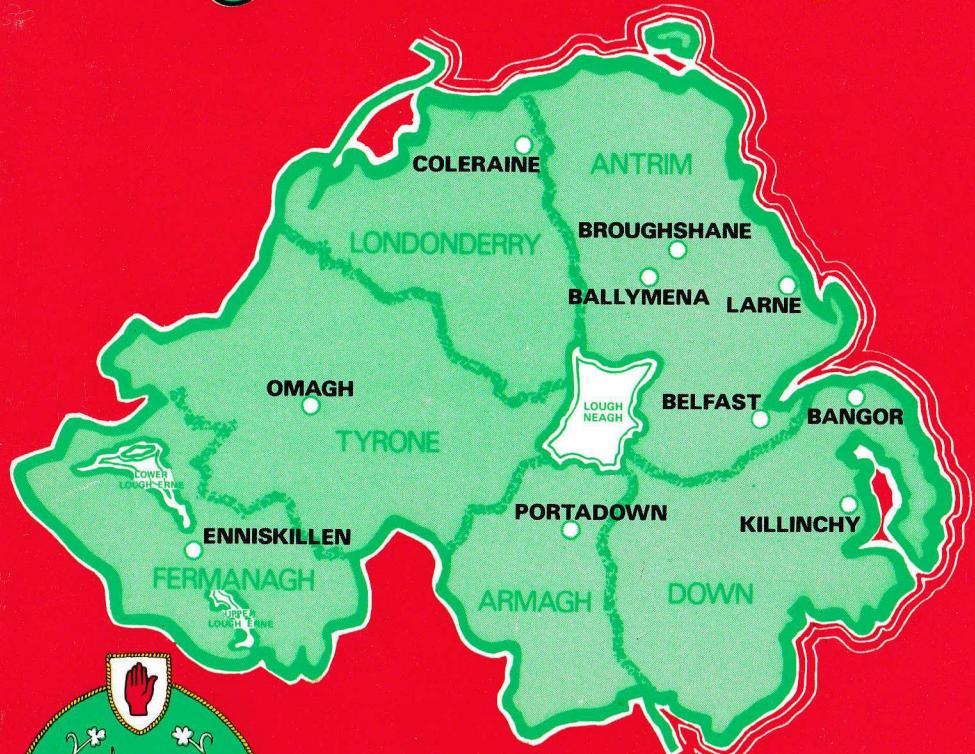


# Newsletter

of the  
**Northern Ireland  
Daffodil Group**



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

APRIL 1985  
ISSUE

# The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group



## Objects

The purpose for which the Society is established is the advancement of horticultural education through the study of the genus *Narcissus* and in furtherance of such purpose:

- (i) to promote public participation in the said educational purpose;
- (ii) to promote the establishment of public gardens or of display beds in such gardens which include plantings of *Narcissus* bulbs;
- (iii) to provide bulb stocks for plantings within para (ii) above;
- (iv) to promote, or advance scientific or practical research into the breeding, cultivation, and production of *Narcissus* cultivars;
- (v) to promote, or advance the study of *Narcissus* diseases and pests with particular reference to making Northern Ireland an international centre for the production of healthy stocks of *Narcissus*;
- (vi) to promote, or advance the production of new and improved cultivars of *Narcissus* by hybridisation, and the increase of stocks of the best types of existing cultivars;
- (vii) to publish, or assist in the publication of scientific and practical information and to publish a journal in respect of the activities of the Society;
- (viii) to promote, or advance the holding of shows, lectures, meetings, and displays which include exhibits of material relating to the *Narcissus* and to which the public is admitted, and wherever held throughout the World;
- (ix) to promote, or sponsor the promotion of classes for *Narcissus* at any Horticultural Show including the provision of trophies, cups, or prizes for such classes;
- (x) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to judge classes or exhibits of *Narcissus* at any Horticultural Show or at any Show or display having such a class or exhibit;
- (xi) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to give lectures, or to provide exhibits relating to the *Narcissus*;
- (xii) to aid, and to receive aid from the Departments of Agriculture in Northern Ireland, and for England, Wales, and Scotland, or from any body or person whether incorporated or not and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere, which has objects which include the purpose of the Society and which aid will advance the purpose of the Society;
- (xiii) to grant financial aid to meet in whole or in part the travel costs of a person provided or nominated by the Society to act as a judge at a Show within para (x) above, or to give a lecture or provide an exhibit within para (xi) above, or to provide a trophy, cup or prize at a Show within para (ix) above, whether or not such person is a member of the Society;
- (xiv) to accept subscriptions and gifts (whether of real, chattel real or personal assets), devises and bequests;
- (xv) to borrow, or raise, or secure the payment of money by mortgage or otherwise;
- (xvi) generally to manage, invest, and expend all the property and monies of the Society;
- (xvii) to affiliate or associate with any body or person whether incorporated or not, and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere;
- (xviii) to do all such other acts which lawfully are incidental to the purpose of the Society.

## THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

# NEWSLETTER

April, 1985

Vol. 2 No. 6

## OFFICERS OF THE GROUP

### *Chairman*

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C. COCHRANE and TOM CONWAY, c/o Ministry of Agriculture

### *Editor and Assistant Secretary*

SANDY McCABE, 21 Parkmount Crescent, Ballymena  
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# Rules of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

## 1. Title

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

## 2. Registered Office

The registered office is 1 Glenholm Crescent, Belfast BT8 4LT.

## 3. Objects

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- (xvi) generally to manage, invest, and expend all the property and monies of the Society;
- (xvii) to affiliate, or associate with any body or person whether incorporated or not, and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere;
- (xviii) to do all such other acts which lawfully are incidental to the purpose of the Society.

## 4. Membership and Subscription

Membership of the Society shall be open to anyone on the payment of a minimum subscription, for the time being, of £4 per annum or £10 for 3 years due on the 1st January. Any member being twelve months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned.

Honorary Members, who shall be elected on the recommendation of the Committee at a general meeting of the Society shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be liable to pay the subscription.

## 5. Committee

The management of the Society shall be vested in the committee of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and four additional members, and the committee shall have power to co-opt, and power also to invite a non-member to attend its proceedings.

A quorum for committee meetings shall be four, with the Chairman having a casting vote.

A record of proceedings shall be kept.

The officers and committee shall be elected annually at the annual general meeting, and may be removed from office only by a general meeting.

No member may serve for more than 4 consecutive years on the Committee.

## 6. Sub-Committees

The committee shall have power to appoint a sub-committee for any special purpose. A sub-committee shall make a record of its proceedings. The Chairman of each sub-committee shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.

## 7. Annual General Meeting and Other General Meetings

The annual general meeting shall be held in January each year, and other general meetings may be held at any time directed by the committee. Ten or more members may convene a general meeting if the committee refuses their written request for a general meeting. At least 7 days notice in writing shall be given of any general meeting and shall state the agenda.

A quorum for General Meetings shall be fifteen, with the Chairman having a casting vote.

Any member desiring to propose a resolution shall send the proposed resolution in writing to the Honorary Secretary, to arrive not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

## 8. Amendment of Rules

Rules may only be amended at a general meeting of which due notice had been given.

## 9. Voting at General Meetings

Every fully paid up member shall be entitled to vote at a general meeting and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

A record of the business conducted shall be kept.

## 10. Accounts

A Bank Account shall be maintained in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and the Chairman or Secretary.

An audited statement of the accounts of the Society shall be submitted by the Treasurer to the annual general meeting.

An auditor, whether honorary or paid, shall be elected at each annual general meeting.

## 11. Disputes

Any dispute between a member and the committee shall be determined by a sub-committee appointed under Rule 6 and the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Society, the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for the time being, shall be members of such sub-committee.

## 12. Dissolution

On dissolution of the Society the assets shall not be divisible between the members but shall be given to a body, whether incorporated or not which has purposes which are charitable in a manner as nearly as may be resembling the purpose of the Society and which is selected by the Society at its terminal general meeting.

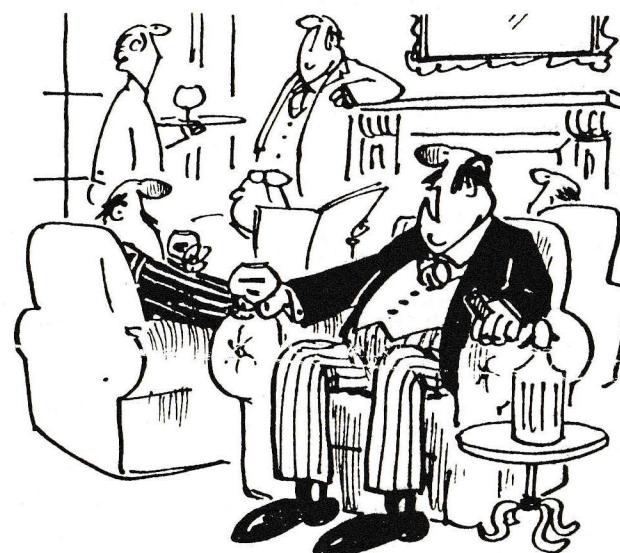
# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

The Annual General Meeting of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group was held on 27th January, 1985, in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast, with the outgoing Chairman — Jack Carlisle — occupying the chair.

Mr. Carlisle welcomed all members who attended, particularly in view of the inclement weather which prevailed. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and passed unanimously.

Secretary and Treasurer — Sam Bankhead and Gilbert Andrews — presented their respective reports which were adopted by acclamation on the proposal of Sandy McCabe. Details of these reports appear elsewhere in this issue.

Before vacating the chair, Mr. Carlisle thanked the members for the honour which they had bestowed on him in having him as their Chairman for the past two years. He called on all members to endeavour to attract new recruits to daffodil growing and hoped that some of the younger generation could be persuaded to join. He then declared all offices vacant and invited Mr. Crosbie Cochrane to take the chair and conduct the election of officers.



*"Yes, I do believe in clubs for women – but only if every other form of persuasion fails!"*

Courtesy of "The Weekly News"

Before proceeding with the election, Mr. Cochrane thanked Mr. Carlisle for his two years leadership, specifically mentioning his efforts in exhibiting a display of daffodils at the Northern Bank in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. The hope was expressed that similar displays would be mounted in the future.

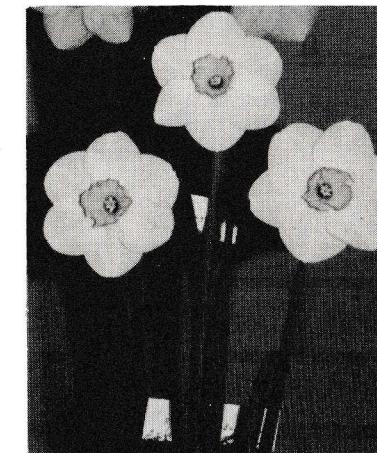
The election of officers then proceeded with the results as shown on Page 1 of this issue.

Mrs. Reade of Carncairn Daffodils became the first female to be Chairman of the N.I.D.G. (Editor's note: We are glad that Mrs. Reade prefers to be addressed as Madame Chairman. With equal opportunities commissions and recent sexual discrimination laws now operative in our country, one even hesitates to build a "Snowman" in the garden in case one is prosecuted for not building a "Snowperson".)

In any event, Mrs. Reade in occupying the chair, thanked the members for the honour afforded to her and promised to do her best for the Group in the next two years.

Mr. McCabe informed the meeting that one of our Committee members — Mr. W. J. E. (Sam) Dukelow had been recognised by H.M. The Queen by the award of the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List. Congratulations were extended to Sam by Mrs. Reade on behalf of the Group.

Mr. Cochrane then enlightened and, dare I say it, somewhat depressed the members, by outlining the enormity of the task which faces the Group in 1985 and in later years. The collection of daffodils at the New University of Ulster, Coleraine, which is now recognised as the National Collection of daffodils, would have to be rogued for virus, identified, labelled, lifted, cleaned, sterilised and replanted both at the New University and in Belfast. It was decided that this task of great magnitude would be left to the Committee to organise, but it was clear that volunteers, conscripts and paid servants would have to be employed to bring the job to a satisfactory conclusion.



D.714 2W-GYY  
(Woodland Prince x Eminent)  
Best Bloom Ballymena 1984

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

In this, the first issue of our Newsletter since my election as Chairman (preferable in my view to Chairperson), I would like to thank the members of the N.I.D.G. for their confidence in me. I promise that I will do my very best to promote the aims of the Group during my period in office. Our thanks are due to Jack Carlisle for all his work during the last two years in spite of the long distance he had to travel. My best wishes to all our members for a successful and rewarding daffodil year.

1984 in the daffodil world was a sad year, losing as we did both John Lee and Willie Toal. One cannot imagine the London Show without John Lee and very few keen growers have not seen or grown some of his immaculate flowers. Here in Northern Ireland no show was complete without the humour and keen eye of Willie Toal. We shall miss him, though his memory will be perpetuated in the William Toal Award. The Committee has decided that the best flower from Divisions 5 - 9 at the Championship of Ireland Show will be selected and given this accolade. The exact award has still to be decided but it will be worthy of such a fine gentleman.

In New Zealand they are mourning the loss of Phil Phillips who was a welcome visitor to these shores on several occasions, raised some beautiful flowers and probably produced more daffodil seed than anyone in the world.

As a Group we must look forward. In 1985 and subsequent years we will have many problems to face. The most daunting is to help sort out the difficulties surrounding the future of the Guy Wilson Memorial Garden. This is a difficult problem which will require much thought, hard work and organisation. However, with the help of Crosbie Cochrane and Tom Conway from the Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Henderson from the University I feel confident that satisfactory arrangements will be made.

At first sight it seems an impossible task but as the old saying goes "The difficult is what can be done at once. The impossible takes a little time".

In conclusion my best wishes to all our members, readers and daffodil enthusiasts everywhere.

February, 1985

KATE READE

## WHICH BONE ARE YOU?

Every organisation is structured from four kinds of bones:

1. The Wishbones — who wish someone else would do the work.
2. The Jawbones — who do all the talking but nothing else.
3. The Knucklebones — who criticise everything anyone else tries to do.
4. The Lazybones — who do nothing.

Fortunately there are also the Backbones — they get under the load and do most of the work.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The 1984 season started with our early show on 25th March at the New University of Ulster with around 30 people attending. Entries were down on the previous year owing to shortage of blooms, due to the late season. All the other shows around the province had been very successful with one exception, Hillsborough. Their show date clashed with Bangor and the only entries were in the novice and intermediate classes.

The Championship of Ireland was hosted by the Enniskillen Society. This class was judged by Mr. E. Jarman and Mr. Reg. Nicholl. Both these gentlemen came over from England at the request of the group. They spent six days in the province, going around the growers, assessing new varieties, spending each day in the daffodil beds from early light until dusk. We also had Mr. and Mrs. Bill Roese from California during the show season.

The group had their first show stand at Greenmount Fair in 1984. It was very successful with much interest being shown by the public. I would like to thank all who helped in staging the blooms and especially Mrs. M. Jones and her team of ladies for the work they carried out on the day of the show. I would also like to congratulate Mr. B. S. Duncan for being chosen by the New Zealand Daffodil Convention to be their guest speaker. It would appear he has been a good ambassador for the group. Since his trip we have received applications for memberships from overseas.

During the year we held our usual lectures and talks. At some of them we had a poor attendance but hopefully this year will see an improvement.

Since the Ulster Polytechnic and New University of Ulster became one, there was talk that some of the grounds at the University would be sold. There were very strong rumours that the Guy Wilson Gardens would be included. We have to thank Sir Frank Harrison and Major Reade for writing to Professor Newbold and Lord Gray, urging that the gardens be retained. Mr. Crosbie Cochrane has been in close contact with the New University of Ulster and through his efforts the Guy Wilson Gardens will remain in their present form.

The N.I.D.G. were deeply shocked by the passing away of our dear friend and colleague Billy Toal on the 14th July and our sympathy went out to his wife Louise. Billy will be sadly missed. He had a wealth of knowledge, not only in daffodils but all types of gardening.

S. BANKHEAD

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The Editor is certain that amongst the many readers of this Newsletter, there is someone who wishes to share with him and the other readers, their own personal successes and tribulations in striving to grow the perfect flower. Why don't YOU put pen to paper and write to him. His address is on page 1.

# DAFFODILS DOWN-UNDER

New Zealand has always had a special appeal for me and when Dr. Peter Ramsay telephoned "an offer I couldn't refuse", a long-cherished ambition to see the land and the daffodils and to meet the people was realised. Having previously met Phil Phillips, Peter Ramsay, Alf Chappell and others who visited the U.K. and Northern Ireland during the 1979 World Daffodil Convention and having shared David Adam's professionally-prepared slide show and taped commentary of New Zealand shows with N.I.D.G. members, I was aware of the tremendous enthusiasm for daffodils in New Zealand. Importing from and exporting to New Zealand resulted in further friendly correspondence in which writers gave opinions on the best of New Zealand varieties which supplemented information gleaned from reading the New Zealand National Daffodil Society Show reports. Dr. Ramsay's offer now gave a wonderful opportunity to put faces to names of both people and flowers which had become familiar to me over the years. It would also be possible to assess at first hand the quality of blooms, the standard of the shows and to check on attitudes, emphasis and standards compared with those applied at home and as found in the U.S.A.

If I do not extol the virtues and beauties of the famed New Zealand landscape and scenery it is not because I was immune. Far from it, but others with more descriptive pens have done so before and restricted space would not permit full justice. Let me just make a few disjointed and staccato remarks on aspects not relating to daffodils which will remain as lasting impressions. First impressions on the drive from Auckland to Hamilton with Peter Ramsay were of green fields, as green as home, and covered with thousands of sheep. With ten sheep per person it's no real surprise that in lambswool and sheep meat they're up to their eyes! Where cultivated soil was seen I confess to envy, it looked good enough to eat and would surely grow good daffodils.

It was rather a surprise to find houses and towns along the way more reminiscent of America than home. Neat bungalows vastly outnumbered two-storey houses and almost without exception the gardens were tidy, well tended and colourful; and surprise again, oranges grow in New Zealand — they were everywhere!

Other travelling impressions were of disorientation, the sun wasn't in the right place; sadly squashed and unmourned nocturnal but night-blinded possum; tree ferns, origin of Test cricketers' cap badges; beautiful Christchurch with its rivers, parks and open green squares; Auckland's panoramic views with water all around; golf at an R.N.Z.A.F. base with Brian Parr and roaring jets; a Ranfurley shield rugby match; Maori singing; a native forest walk; the amazing kiwi, more the size of a football than an ostrich as I had mistakenly imagined; a flight over the spectacular Southern Alps and a thoroughly enjoyable 3-day hire car drive with David and Robin Jackson which ended with a dramatic rush-hour breakdown at a busy Wellington roundabout.

More personal impressions were of Graham Phillips' spiderman acts during Springworld preparations and his darting, barefoot enthusiasm through daffodil plantings which conjured thoughts of Merodan equestris! His phenomenal workrate was at least matched, if in different style by Peter and Lesley Ramsay who co-ordinated the whole show and convention — a mammoth

task undertaken with calm efficiency and good nature. Then there was the gracious hospitality of Esme Phillips in her beautiful hilltop home and the ever-present Max Hamilton whose kindly bearing, humour and wisdom commanded respect and reminded me of a younger Tom Bloomer. Alf and June Chappell performed Herculean wonders, with a small band of helpers in organising the South Island Spring Festival which was another spectacular event — and they still had time to enter flowers and entertain foreign visitors.

So much then by way of introduction. Let me now try to answer most of the questions which I have been asked about comparisons of various aspects and standards of growing, showing, judging and breeding of daffodils in the different countries.

## Flowers and Judging Standards

In New Zealand I found I was being put on the spot quite often by very direct questions of comparison and I fear my answers may not always have been entirely satisfactory. It takes time to absorb, appreciate and identify the nature of differences and to form opinions which can be supported. Anyhow, I hope I managed to steer a middle course and to maintain some loyalty to the standards with which I have been indoctrinated and which I have accepted during more than twenty years of growing daffodils in the British Isles.

Basically, our standards are the same, the differences are subtle and matters of emphasis. In both New Zealand and the British Isles, breeders and exhibitors want large, clean or brightly coloured, smooth flowers with overlapping petals and attractive form. However, it is my view that we in the U.K. place more emphasis on perfection of form, smoothness, refinement of texture and absence of blemishes whereas in New Zealand the emphasis seemed to be more in size and colour. I think there is perhaps a reason for this tendency. Many classes at New Zealand shows are very demanding, requiring three blooms each of three, six, twelve or even eighteen varietes. These classes are more prestigious than single bloom classes, which is almost the reverse of our situation. And so we select primarily for the refinement and perfection to withstand single bloom scrutiny whilst New Zealanders seem to select more for size and colour impact and the ability to consistently produce good show quality collection flowers. In support, it is interesting to note that Spud Brogden, who tends to restrict his showing activities to the smaller classes, is breeding some of the most refined flowers in New Zealand. Peter Ramsay and I had many lengthy, inconclusive and good-natured debates on the relative merits of size and perfection. Each of us would like large and perfect blooms. It's when we've got to choose between a perfect smaller flower and a larger flower with imperfections that the question arises. Which interpretation is right? There is no real answer. Each is right by attempting to meet the demands of their respective show schedules. I met the problem head on in one of the classes I was asked to judge; it was a real dilemma, but in the end I stuck to my preference though I suspect most New Zealand judges would have reversed the decision. I also believe that practically all American judges and about half of British judges would have sided with me in that instance. I think that illustrates why foreign judges take decisions which may not always be fully appreciated — they tend to apply their own standards in different conditions. I think it is wise therefore for visiting

judges to be accompanied by a local expert to cater for the few cases where the conflict of emphasis may be the deciding factor.

Refinement of texture was perhaps the one quality which I missed most of all in some of the popular winning varieties, especially the yellow/reds (with one raiser's creations as a notable exception).

#### Daffodil Shows

To face a New Zealand National Show schedule would be a daunting experience for any grower from the British Isles. To further illustrate the point the following rough comparision of classes requiring three blooms per vase is significant.

	<i>Classes</i>	<i>Blooms Required</i>
New Zealand National Show	22	435
London R.H.S. Show	12	132

Another significant difference is that trade growers tend to use open collection classes in New Zealand as their show window and do not put up special trade stands as is done in London.

One of the other differences which I applaud is that there is a comprehensive range of single bloom classes for seedlings in addition to one comparable with the R.H.S. Engleheart Cup class and a further special 12-bloom unnamed seedling class. A full seedling entry would require 45 blooms compared with a maximum 12 in London. It can be seen that there is great emphasis and encouragement for the raising of new seedlings.

The emphasis of three-bloom classes and the very full entries at both shows attended created tremendous impact of colour — the impression was of flowers rather than of a sparsely star-spangled backcloth which is the result in many of our shows where single bloom classes predominate. However, daffodil growing and showing is supposed to be fun. Too many people were surrounded by too many flowers to be staged in too many classes in too short a time, and that means pressure of work instead of fun. I admit the situation is not entirely unknown to me! I also know the kind of work that goes on behind the scenes. Preparation of ground, planting, fertilising, mulching, spraying, weeding, roguing, protecting, labelling, cutting, selecting, packing and carrying all take time and energy. Such activities should also be enjoyed and provide some beneficial exercise and relaxation from pressures of work instead of adding to them. I hear a little voice saying "Practice what you preach".

Anyhow, this all posed the question — why the large entry requirements in the first place? People with small gardens couldn't hope to compete; they wouldn't have the space. Then it dawned on me, many New Zealand growers past and present have been or are farmers or holders of 10-acre lots and space is not a problem, mechanical cultivation is not a problem! So which came first? Did the demands of the schedule create the larger growers or did the larger growers influence the make-up of the schedule? Whichever is the case doesn't matter, I would just make the point that in the past when large classes were the order of the day at the R.H.S. and elsewhere there was always a space on the place ticket for the head gardener's name! This brings us on to the next aspect of my report.

During my visit I was fortunate to visit the plantings of ten growers. As one would expect in any country, some were large, some were small,

but most were larger than here; some were disease- and weed-free, some were not; strong growth in all demonstrated the fertility of New Zealand's soil and its favourable frost-free climate, and each planting reflected the personality of its owner and the degree of priority he or she could give to their daffodils.

Most plantings had a fairly familiar look, drills or raised beds, multi-tudinous labels (often made from Venetian blind slats) and various ingenious protective measures, including inverted plastic liver cans on stakes. But the daffodils were new, though it was nice to see quite a few familiar varieties doing so well, some even larger than at home, despite the dry season which was reputedly having a detrimental effect on size of blooms.

With 50 inches of rain, mean summer temperatures of 60°C, no frost and free draining fertile soil New Zealand seems to be the perfect home for daffodils. But there must be snags; there are always snags! Wind is reputed to be a big problem but it was calm during my visit. My dairying background reminds me of that envious nine-month grazing season. Does that mean weeds grow for nine months or more? Does the absence of frost and greater light intensity favour virus vector aphids and also allow them a longer flying season? Could that be the real snag?

It is no secret that the virus status of New Zealand varieties imported to the British Isles is suspect. This is to be regretted as it is a deterrent to increased importation. If the suspicions are correct what are the reasons? Is it the aphid population and their longer flying season? Does New Zealand have a high aphid population? Is a longer flying season irrelevant? Perhaps the foliage is only susceptible for a certain time common to New Zealand and the British Isles! I confess this is all pure speculation in looking for a source of the trouble. But I did detect a difference in attitude to yellow stripe.

It was amazing to contrast the remarks of a respected authority in New Zealand with the commands to "rogue on sight" by our Dept. of Agriculture officials which has largely determined the attitude of most of our amateurs.

In practice we all know we can never beat "stripe". We also know that if we don't rogue to control it our whole stocks will soon be infected. The larger the stocks of bulbs the more difficult it is to inspect with the necessary frequency and in sufficient detail to find and rogue the carriers. I just wonder if that demanding show schedule is rearing its head yet again — too many flowers mean too many bulbs which causes too much work which in turn allows too little time for attention to detailed intimate inspection and regular roguing. I suspect a few growers have almost given up the battle, I hope they will not and though I appreciate the difficulties it would be nice to think that outstanding New Zealand-raised varieties could be grown with confidence by enthusiasts throughout the world. Was it just coincidence that the greatest effort to control virus was being made by two relatively small growers who were also top exhibitors?

#### Notable Flowers

Blow-by-blow accounts of the major shows have appeared in various journals. My comments are restricted to varieties which remain vividly in my mind's eye. David and Robin Jackson came over from Tasmania with 24 flowers — I had the pleasure of judging their Australasian Six and I can

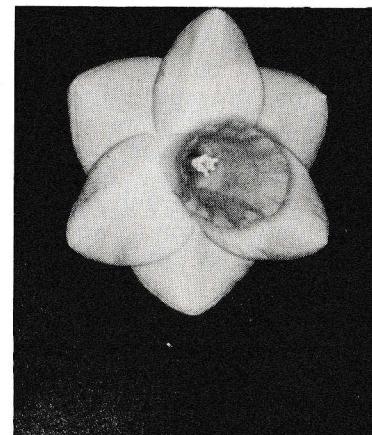
hardly imagine anything better. They showed 'Cowboy', 'Proska', 'Obsession', 36/78 1W-Y, 'Pzaz' and 193/82 2W-W. Four of the six were Divisional Champions and the other two only missed selection. Jackson's also won the George Yarrall Memorial Trophy for 12 blooms with an equally impressive large, smooth, colourful and round flowered entry. "Centrefold", a rimmed Division 2 flower but coded W-WOR, was impressive everywhere — large, round and colourful with amazing substance, it was easily Champion Division 2W with red or orange. I expected much of the yellow trumpets and indeed 'Gold Tan' (O'More) and 'Temple Gold' (Bell) were most impressive, the former similar to 'Midas Touch' and the latter being of distinct broad, round form in mid-gold. 'Stormy Weather' 1W-Y should be a useful acquisition, it was easily the best seen but there is still room for a variety to upstage both this and 'Newcastle'.

'Red Mission', 'Red Ember' and 'Red Era' were the Yellow Reds which most impressed me and 'Bandit' 2W-YYO which usually looked like a 2W-Y simply exuded quality for collection classes though it would have single bloom difficulties. Of the Whites 'Springston Charm' 2W-GWW and 'Sea Dream' 3W-W were my favourites. New Zealand-raised Pinks are very bright but David Jackson has a stranglehold on southern hemisphere pinks — 'Melancholy' 1W-P, 'Vabu' and 'Obsession' both 2W-P's are hard to fault for size, colour, form and substance. I also remember the amazing pink of 'Marabou' 4W-P and 'Quasar' 2W-P, both imported from Murray Evans.

I hope we will soon see many of these flowers at our own shows; the competition would be good and we should be using them in our breeding programmes. No country has a monopoly of the best, perhaps by being more outward-looking in our search for breeding stock we can help accelerate progress. Such is my wish and the visit to the World Convention in New Zealand has given a magnificent opportunity to select varieties which should be invaluable in future breeding plans.

To all those who showed kindness and hospitality during my stay I wish to express my thanks and hope that I may have the opportunity of returning that hospitality if and when they can make a visit "up above".

BRIAN S. DUNCAN



**GOLDFINGER 1Y-Y (Duncan)**  
(Golden Jewel O.P.)  
Engleheart Groups 1981 and 1984  
First Prize Ballymena 1982

## DISEASES OF NARCISSI (2)

A. R. McCracken, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.I.Biol.

R. S. McILWAINE, H.N.C.

Plant Pathology Research Division

The yield and quality of Narcissi bulbs can be reduced by the presence of viruses. Some of the consequences of infection with one of these viruses are described in this article which also deals with physiological disorders of bulbs. These are 'diseases' which are caused by non-living agents and the measures recommended to avoid them are also described.

### Virus diseases

Viruses are extremely small sub-microscopical organisms which multiply within living cells. They are often very specific but most plants and animals may suffer from them. They sometimes manifest their presence by causing visible symptoms and are incapable of multiplying outside the host tissue. When infection occurs they virtually become part of the host, so it is normally impossible to control them by use of sprays or dips.

To date, 16 different viruses have been detected in *Narcissus*, 14 of which can be conveniently grouped according to the way they are transmitted from host to host.

#### Transmitted by

Aphids	Nematodes	Mechanically
<i>Narcissus</i> yellow stripe	Arabis mosaic	<i>Narcissus</i> mosaic
<i>Narcissus</i> white streak	Strawberry latent ringspot	<i>Narcissus</i> tip necrosis
<i>Narcissus</i> latent	Tomato black ring	
Grand Soleil d'Or virus	Raspberry ringspot	
Jonquil mild mosaic	Tobacco ringspot	
Cucumber mosaic	Tobacco rattle	

At the names suggest some of the viruses such as cucumber mosaic virus and the nematode transmitted viruses are also pathogens of other crops. The symptoms of virus infection have been variously described as streak, stripe, mottle and mosaic but often the only sign of such infections is general debilitation of the plant causing loss of bulb yield and smaller, poor quality flowers. In the field the symptoms of virus presence indicate that plants are not doing well and yet there is no sign of other obvious pest or disease. In the laboratory viruses can be detected by the use of the electron microscope, serological tests and sap inoculation of indicator plants which are known to develop clear symptoms.

Growers can greatly increase the quality of their plants by growing virus-free stock. This can be produced in the laboratory using a technique known as meristem-tip culture. Using this method it is impossible to produce plantlets which are free of virus, derived even from infected material. Much of this work is being carried out in the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute in England, where gradually stocks of virus free bulbs of a number of different *Narcissus* varieties are being built up. The advantages of such material

have been proven. Virus free bulbs give higher flower yields and of better quality. Until such bulbs are widely available growers must rely on their own selection by constantly rogueing out suspect plants and choosing the biggest bulbs from their best stocks and growing them in a separate area. The measure of success will obviously depend on the state of the parent stock and the degree of selection but will never be as successful as meristem-tip culture.

#### Physiological disorders

Physiological disorders are caused by non-living agents. These abnormalities, many of which affect flowering, can often be traced to grower error, environmental factors, especially during storage or nutritional imbalances, e.g. high nutrient concentrations.

The most common source of these problems is the hot water treatment (HWT). The main aim of this treatment is the control of stem and bulb eelworm. However the margin between killing the eelworms and damaging the bulb is small. The standard HWT is 3 h at 44°C. High temperature treatment is at 46.7°C and should only be used in conjunction with pre-warming and pre-soaking of a first year flower crop.

Bulbs which have been held in store at a low ambient temperature are frequently damaged by HWT. There are a range of symptoms affecting flowers, roots and leaves. If HWT is carried out too late leaf damage occurs usually as speckling of the tips and roughening or severe distortion. Blotched foliage in the first season after HWT is a sign that the treatment was carried out later than desirable. Flowers may also be damaged ranging from complete loss to reduced size or distortion and splitting of the heads.

The most serious damage occurs when bulbs are treated too late or have been held in cool, damp conditions which have encouraged root development. The roots are killed and cause a severe loss of vigour but these problems can be avoided by ensuring that bulbs are stored above 18°C or are pre-warmed to this temperature for several hours before HWT. The safest time for minimum damage is shortly after the bulbs have completely formed the flower initials (stage P<sub>c</sub>). When this occurs will vary depending on variety, locality and season. No HWT should be performed after active root growth starts.

Other physiological disorders which occur less frequently are:

**Grassiness** — a large number of very slim grass-like leaves are produced and there are no flowers. Below ground there are numerous small bulbs instead of the usual large bulb surrounded by two or three small ones. The cause of the disorder is unknown although it may be due to a genetic mutation or perhaps the infection of the main axis by bulb fly or bulb scale mite. Affected plants should be rogued.

**Root failure** — occurs if storage conditions are too dry producing a hard scaly base plate. This causes the roots to grow upwards within the outer scales resulting in stunted plants.

**Gummosis** — large pockets of gum form on the bulbs. This is usually in response to an excess of ethylene in the storage atmosphere. This gas is produced in large amount by *Fusarium* infected bulbs.

**Soft-rotting** — when fresh bulbs are stored in unventilated stores and temperatures allowed to rise above 30°C the vigorous respiration of the bulbs generates further heat and water. This causes the bulbs to soften and leads to secondary infections by bacteria.

#### Conclusions

It is obvious that growing conditions must be optimum for high yields of good quality Narcissi. Growers must avoid very high nutrient concentrations in the growing medium and be especially careful with herbicides. For example, residues of chlorpropham in straw have caused problems when used to cover bulbs. It has also caused damage when used for weed control in the field. An inadequate supply of water or poor growing conditions, e.g. poorly drained soil can result in blind buds. In these cases flowers fail to open, the outer sheaths become brown and finally shrivel up and die.

It should be mentioned that there are several nematode and insect pests which have not been described in this article.

## Cambridge House Girls' School, Ballymena

### THE SCHOOL COLOURS

Writing in the School Magazine in 1962, Violet Henderson recalled how Cambridge House came to have green and yellow as its colours. She said that it was "about the year 1915", but it may well have been earlier. Miss Currie had been thinking about school colours for some time, but had been unable to make up her mind until a bowl of daffodils caught her eye. She looked no further; from that time on, green and yellow have been associated with her school.

Full uniform was not introduced at that time, but on the girls' gym tunics there was a green and yellow braid at the shoulder and a green belt along with a silver C.H.B. badge, like the ones worn by the members of the Old Girls' Association to-day. Another distinctive sign of the Cambridge House pupil in those early days was "the green and gold band on a flat coarse straw boater" according to another former pupil.

From "A 75th Anniversary History" by Trevor J. I. Gray

### TRUMPETERS OF SPRING

A House with daffodils in it is a house lit up, whether or no the sun be shining outside. Daffodils in a green bowl — and let it snow if it will.

A. A. Milne, "Not That It Matters"

## NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

## DR INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1984

CR

		£	p	By:	
	Dec. 31 Lecture Expenses	193.05		Dec. 31 Annual Subscriptions.	
	Postage and Stationery	208.75		Deposit Account Interest .	522.18
	Printing Newsletter	484.00		Current Account Interest .	14.50
	N.I. Amateur Championship	34.00		Dividends - Net .	60.67
	Championship of Ireland .	21.00		Income Tax Refund .	216.54
	Greenmount Fair.	96.76		Bulb Auction .	92.80
	Parkanaur Trust .	25.00		Profit on Sales of Shares .	16.00
	Ethiopia Famine Appeal .	25.00		"Daffodils in Ireland" at Greenmount .	1,116.96
	Bank Fees .	3.63			7.50
	Ex Gratia Payments re Harrogate .	111.00			
	Sundries .	18.00			
	Surplus of Income over Expenditure .	826.96			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,047.15</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,047.15</b>

16

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1984

LIABILITIES	£	p		ASSETS	£	p
Sundry Creditors .	—			Cash in Hand .	88.07	
<b>Income and Expenditure Account</b>	—			Cash in Bank — Current Account .	189.59	
Balance as at 1/1/'84 .	5,923.95			Deposit Account .	273.69	
Add: Surplus on Year .	826.96			Income Tax Refund Due .	298.05	
				Shares at Cost .	5,484.97	
				 Daffodil Society Medals .	9.70	
				Less: Sales .	31.00	
					21.30	
				Stocks: Newsletter Covers .	138.00	
				Membership Forms .	104.00	
				Ties (21). .	69.84	
				Crystal Vases (5) .	95.00	
					<b>£6,750.91</b>	

The foregoing Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet have been prepared from the books and information received from the Treasurer — Mr. Gilbert Andrews — and I certify that they are in accordance therewith.

21/1/'85

(Signed) R. McD. COULTER

# MY DAFFODIL BREEDING PROGRAMME

AS AT AUGUST 1984

## Scale of Breeding

On average I have sown 464 seeds per year since 1976. However, the number of seeds sown in individual years has fluctuated a lot. Thus, between 1976 and 1984 the number of seeds sown per annum has been:

69: 396: 746: 358: 853: 442: 167: 492: 655:

Excluding 1978 when no seeds germinated (I left the pots and about 150 germinated a year later) germination has been about 55%. Thus, out of 4,178 seeds collected to date, I should ultimately have about 1,968 cultivars from which to make selections.

Crosses have averaged about 20 per year, implying about 23 seeds per cross. However, this is misleading — I have a lot of crosses with 10 or less seeds. This result reflects the difficulty of getting seed to set when cultivars in Divisions 5, 6 and 7 are used as seed parents. Although I don't always succeed, I now aim to make each cross on at least 4 blooms so as to get about 60 seeds per cross. Except for about half a dozen high priority and/or difficult crosses, I rarely repeat crosses.

## Current Position

My 1976 and 1977 crosses were planted out in a poor position (too near a large yew hedge). As a result nothing flowered in under 6 years and I have had to wait until this year for (almost) the last of these to flower.

My 1978-1980 crosses were planted out a year late in 1982, mostly on land borrowed from Jim Pearce. So far, only 5 of these flowers have bloomed. As many "better" crosses are included I have high hopes that something worthwhile will bloom in the next couple of years.

Subsequent crosses are being planted out on time — i.e. after two years in pot.

## Aims

I have deliberately not followed the balanced breeding programme critical for success in the Engleheart Cup. Instead, I have tended to concentrate on areas where I think progress has fallen behind the best available elsewhere. This said, I have sometimes fallen for the temptation to make crosses in advanced areas when an obvious cross seemed achievable.

I have consequently made extensive crosses in Division 1-3 and 6 and more limited crosses in Division 4, 5 and 7. Within this framework my major areas of interest have been bi-colour trumpets (over 1,200 seeds) and Division 6 (over 700 seeds). Lesser interests include 2W-P's, 3Y-Y's, 3W-Y's, 3W-P's and early flowering cultivars in general.

## Results

When considering results, it is important to recall that they are based purely on my 1976/77 crosses, i.e. on about 250 seedlings which have flowered.

## Bi-colour Trumpets

During 1976/77 I used various combinations of 'Preamble', 'Lisrenny' and 'Grianan'. The results are poor and I have thrown most of the seedlings away.

For some years now I have believed that progress is likely to be difficult if only 1W-Y's are used as parents, unless, as per Jackson, long term line breeding can be used. In the past (William Dunlop) progress seems to have come from using a 1W-W as one of the two parents. Given recent progress with 1W-W's this seems to be an approach worth trying again. Accordingly, I have used 'White Star', 'White Empress' and 'Silent Valley' with a wide range of 1W-Y's ('Cristobal', 'Form Master', 'Elegant Lady', 'Newcastle', 'Downpatrick', 'Stormy Weather', 'Prologue', 'Ivy League', 'Descanso', 'Bravura', 'Tamarus', etc.).

Seedlings which are due to flower in the next couple of years ought to give some indication of whether or not this approach will work.

## Division 6

I have a broadly-based programme aimed at keeping all options open a decade hence. Difficulty in getting *N. Cyclamineus* means that I have done less crosses using the specie as one parent than I had hoped. Even so, I have two useful near misses from 'Spanish Gold' x *N. Cyclamineus*. 1982/3 and 4 are good garden plants, have plenty of substance and have clear mid-yellow colouring. As predicted by Cyril Coleman, both are a bit long in the trumpet and the flowers are a little large relative to the height of the stems. Both have been exhibited in winning seedling collections.

I have also made several crosses between standard Division 2 and Division 6 cultivars. So far, the most promising result is 1983/18 ('Stainless' x 'Foundling') which is almost identical to 'Elwing'. I anticipate that most of the resulting seedlings will prove too tall for Division 6. What I hope to do is either register such varieties in Division 2 or cross them with *N. Cyclamineus* or small Division 6 hybrids. One specific aim here is to get waisted cups on 2Y-Y's, for which I have used 'Rival' and 'Charity Fair' with 'Golden Joy' and 'Golden Jewel'.

The other approach for which I have high hopes is crosses between second generation cyclamineus hybrids, e.g. 'Joybell' x 'Perky'. Such varieties set seed moderately well and are closer to the size I want. Again, results ought to start coming during the next couple of years.

## 2W-P's

I don't like the harsh pink inherited by many varieties derived from Richardson breeding. Instead, I have tried several times to get the "soft" pink of many Tasmanian varieties into European stock. So far, this aim has been met by repeating 'Inverpolly' x 'Lismore' three times. However, further progress depends on building up a stock of Tasmanian pinks.

## 3Y-Y's

I have a small but interesting group of seedlings from 'Oakwood' x 'Aircastle'. The seedlings are late flowering and have small/medium sized blooms of a deeper shade of primrose than most recent introductions. One of these seedlings (1984/18) has been crossed with 2Y-Y 'Kingbird' and a seedling from Mrs. Abel-Smith. I have also repeated the original cross and done other crosses involving 'Suave' and 'Johnnie Walker'.

### 3W-Y's

I have had a few interesting seedlings flower from 'Invitation' x 'Clumber' and vice versa. These have now been crossed with 'Joybell' and 'Pure Joy'. The seedlings have wide rounded petals, size and vigour, but have petals which sometimes reflex and which could be whiter.

### 3W-P's

I started by crossing 2W-P's such as 'Jewel Song' and 'Shell Bay' which have shortish cups. I have now abandoned this approach and tried to cross varieties such as 'Pismo Beach', 'Delectable' and 'Barnby Moor' where at least one parent is from Division 3. So far the number of seeds per cross has been quite low and I don't expect significant results in under 2-3 years.

### Early Varieties

I have imported a lot of "down under" varieties in the hope of breeding better early flowering cultivars. So far I have thrown out so many of these imports with virus, that the scope for making crosses has been very limited. Even so, I have managed to cross 'Baradoc' with 'Midas Touch' and have made several crosses with 'Tamarus' (which I think highly of) and 'Stormy Weather'. Results are unlikely in under 3-4 years. Since they grow well for me and are moderately early, I've also made several crosses involving 'Estremadura' and 'Loch Hope' (results within 2 years).

### Most Promising Seedlings to Date

My best results so far are "near misses" which I am likely to show and/or breed from, but which are unlikely to be registered. A possible exception is 1984/20 — a late mid-season flowering 2Y-R from 'Oakwood' x 'Buncldy'. So far, this looks likely to be too large for a miniature and too small for a standard exhibition variety (height 12"-15" — flower diameter 2½"-3"). However, 1984/20 does have a good stem and neck, good (but not outstanding) form, plenty of substance and very intense colouring. It lasted a month without fading this year and has firm upright foliage. This year it set seed from the pollen of N. Jonquilla. I will be taking a careful look at 1984/20 during the next couple of years to see if it will make a useful garden plant.

### Show Results

#### 1. Seedlings

I won the 3 seedlings class at Solihull in 1982 and 1983 and came second in the same class at the R.H.S. Show this year. These are the only seedling collection classes which I have entered to date.

#### 2. Standard Varieties

I won the 6 varieties from Division 5-9 at Solihull in 1982 and the class for three Australasian daffodils at Solihull in 1983. I came second in the class for 6 foreign raised varieties at the R.H.S. Show this year. I have not entered the larger classes for 12/15 varieties. Each year I win about six single blooms classes between the three London Shows and obtain second and third places pro rata. A high proportion of these successes relate to 2Y-R and Divisions 6 and 7.

MALCOLM BRADBURY

## NIL DESPERANDUM

Sooner or later amateur small growers will be tempted to make their first attempts at raising their own daffodil seedlings. It often starts when an uncut bloom develops a pod which produces seed. These are best described as open pollinated.

At the outset, let us be honest. On a small scale only the chances of success are, at best, minimal; yet, there is always the element of luck and optimism after studying pedigrees — "next year".

After ten years of trying on a small scale, I have failed as yet to produce a wonder bloom. At best I have achieved only mediocrity even when making crosses which have been successfully used by the top raisers. Note the "AS YET"!!! for I still persist, though the past few years have been devoted entirely to Division 4.

As to using the same crosses which have been successful for others, the most prolific cross of all time must be the Richardson 'Kilworth' by 'Arbar'. Many others must have made the same cross only to fail to produce anything worthwhile. So one can assume that in their time the Richardsons must have discarded thousands of seedlings produced from that cross. Don't forget they were always looking for seedlings which were better than their existing top-notchers. Thus, the aim of the raiser must be always for "better than" the present class leaders — their motto "Nil Desperandum" coupled with a goodly amount of optimism.

My advice for beginners, for whom this is intended, is to concentrate on one Division and specifically one of its sections dominated by only one or two varieties. Divisions open for new challengers are:

1W-P: 1W-Y: 1Y-R: 2W-Y: 2O-O or R: 3Y-Y: 3Y-R: 3Y-YR:

Absolutely wide open is 3W-P. My own target is Division 4O-O or R and more distinctly so than the present leader 'Smokey Bear' which I intend using exclusively for breeding in 1985.

The real test for the would-be raiser is the four (if lucky), five or even six-year wait from seed sowing to the appearance of the first blooms. To a certain degree this can be shortened by purchasing a quantity of discarded and unregistered seedlings from one of the nurseries which have them for sale cheaply in their catalogues. From them you may even get breeding stock.

Your first seedlings come into bloom. You will be proud of them all — goodish, mediocre or downright bad — for those blooms are exclusively yours and in a way, an achievement.

So go ahead, raise some more each year and who knows — you may raise your very own perfect daffodil — the aim of us all.

JOHN MORALEE

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Utility is when you have one telephone, luxury is when you have two, opulence when you have three — and Paradise when you have none.

Doug Larsen in "Green Bay"

# ULSTER DAFFODILS IN THE OHIO VALLEY

It's the 24th of May, and I am out in the garden, trying to complete my records of daffodil bloom before the stems and leaves go limp. The mailman comes, and brings the N.I.D.G. Newsletter. Happy day! I sit in the 70° sun-shine and read it cover to cover. The article by Kate Reade sets me to thinking. I wish I had written Mr. Dunlop many years ago about how much his creations have meant to me. He was the first grower in Northern Ireland from whom I ever ordered daffodils. Guy Wilson had just died at the time I began to be serious about assembling a collection of show bulbs. Eventually, of course, I learned to know Nell Richardson, so Irish daffs from Prospect House were added almost yearly, but this report will concentrate on some of my Ulster favourites, starting with Mr. Dunlop's.

I loved his letters, written on an ancient typewriter, as much as I love his flowers. I have cherished 'Limelight', which performs so well for me, and 'Enniskillen' is still a top 3W-R in my garden. Both 'Newcastle' and 'Downpatrick' have been growing here for almost fifteen years, and when they are not too crowded they can't be faulted for size. The leaves are always vigorous, and I know I would have more bloom if I divided them as often as I should. 'Bushmills', too, is a lusty plant, and I have been able to spread this lovely 3W-YYO around to friends who have not realized that daffodils will bloom so late in April. 'Woodgreen' and 'Woodvale' are two more favourites. I forced a pot of 'Woodgreen' this past winter, and what a joy it was! Still two more: 'Hollyberry' and 'Ormeau'. How these light up the Division 2 bed, and still help in collections for the shows!

But what of other Ulster daffodils? How well do they do in the Ohio Valley, where we can have a December dip in temperature to -25°F. with no snow cover? Sometimes we have a heat wave in March, shooting up to 85°, followed by an icy snowfall that snaps the stems and freezes the foliage to a permanent limpness. On the whole, my Irish bulbs have survived as well, or perhaps better, than those from Oregon or Down Under. Some have been consistently fine. All told, I now grow between 600 and 700 varieties, so this report can't cover even all of the Ulster ones, but here are a few comments about some in each Division.

Wilson's 'Clonmore', 'Slieveboy' and 'Ulster Prince' have been standbys in Division 1Y-Y. I have liked Carncairn's 'Cophetua', but she does not like me — gone for the second time. 'Gin and Lime' (1Y-W), however, seems to have settled in nicely, though it will have to go some to improve on 'Spell-binder's' toughness. Kate Reade's 'Boudoir' (1W-P) is also a good "do-er", and so is her 'White Phantom' (1W-W). Other white trumpets that have been good in my garden are old 'Rashee', 'Finola' and 'Ulster Queen'. Newer ones are 'White Empress' (Bloomer) and 'Inniswood' (Carncairn). I will say at this point that I rarely invest a lot of money in **any** bulb, so do not have any of the fantastic first-place winners developed in recent years.



Peggy McNeale

Now for Division 2. Who can resist the variety of form and colour to be found in the large cups? First out (after the earliest 6's) is 'Armada'. I have to hand this old wonder a tribute for steadfastness as well as beauty. No wonder Matthew Zandbergern wanted to acquire the stock from Guy Wilson! It blooms all over the place, as I have forced it so often, and then plant out the potted bulbs wherever I can find room to tuck them in. Recently, however, I have fallen in love with another 2Y-O: Ballydorn's 'Killeen'. What a flower! It takes special weather to cause Sir Frank's 'Golden Amber' to colour up so that it lives up to its name, but when it does, it, too, is an eye-opener. Another unusual Ballydorn flower is 'Rio Rouge', always good for a vase-of-3 ribbon.

In the 2Y-W category, old 'Cocktail' is very consistent, but 'Carncairn's 'Drumawillan' is perhaps going to catch up with it. 'Lemon Doric' has been replanted twice, so its place on my list is in the balance.

Among the many 2W-R's Ballydorn's 'Hilford' has been at the top of my list lately, and another from Ballydorn which blooms well, and lasts long in the garden is 'Mountpleasant'. 'Northern Sceptre', too, in the rimmed classification, has been a great performer.

In the pinks, 'Passionale' and 'Interim', from the 'Old Master', remain popular because they can be counted on. Brian Duncan's 'Violin' is a good "comer", as is Kate Reade's 'Rosapenna'.

Division 2 whites have long given me problems with basal rot, but Wilson's 'Dew Pond', 'Easter Moon' and 'Sleeven' have persisted, and consequently are beloved. 'Churchfield' (Carncairn) and 'Churchman' (Ballydorn) are newer and so far seem happy in our area. I am also testing 'Drumtullagh' (Carncairn) and hope it does as well as 'Finmacool', 'Glandore' and 'Spelga' (Ballydorn).

The late-blooming Division 3's are cherished for keeping the season going, even though I often have none in bloom for our local shows. Wilson's 'Green-hills' is certainly in this class, but what wonderful substance it has! Hot May sunshine doesn't faze it. Bloomer's 'Woodland Star' is also a delight, but the green-eyed rimmed beauties are my favourites. Sir Frank Harrison has produced some fine ones; first 'Fairgreen' and 'Fairmile', and then 'Lancaster', 'Florida Manor' and 'Gransha'.

There are some wonderful green-eyed 3W-W's, too, from Ulster. 'Portrush' and 'Angel' from Guy Wilson's genius are still going strong, and then there is 'Portstewart' from Ballydorn. 'Chinese White' does not fare well with me, but one friend here is our Ohio Valley grows huge, beautiful 'Chinese Whites', so I confess that I do not have the right touch with that one.

We must finish this quickly. I have no Ulster doubles, and no one in Northern Ireland seems interested in Divisions 5 or 7. I like Sir Frank's 'Golden Winds' for Division 6. He is also developing some Division 9 flowers that are promising. In this Division I have Bloomer's 'Poet's Way', also, and hope it eventually does as well as Wilson's 'Cantabile'.

This gives you an idea of how much the Ulster beauties are appreciated in far-off Ohio. Blessings on you wonderful growers!

PEGGY MACNEALE

## FIFTY YEARS ON

The productive particles in nature have a self-determination of their own, which, left to themselves, follow their own freely-chosen paths. To make them change course, interference caused by winds, insects or more positively so in the case of daffodils, by the determined manipulations of breeders, to achieve their aims. Yet daffodil breeders know only too well, that even with lifelong studies of pedigrees, our diversion of the daffodils free-will is only minimal when one considers the past fifty years progress towards what passes for perfection to-day. For instance, I am often asked if there will ever be a pink perianth. I think there will be one emanating from a sport and their improvement upon such natural diversions. Aside from daffodils for a moment, who, fifty years ago ever thought there would be a red delphinium, yet to-day at Wisley we have it being stabilised and improved. Also there is now among bearded iris a group of Remontants which not only bloom in June but bloom again in late summer.

So what has the daffodil and those interfering breeders in store for us in fifty years time. The closest to an "all red" is orange-red, yet the deepening perianth colour in some of to-days newer varieties, leads one to believe that an "all red" is not far away.

Fashions change very gradually and whereas it is not long since a star-like formation in the perianth was ideal, the tendency to-day is for completely circular perianth. So fifty years hence can only be conjecture and mostly surmise so one can let one's imagination run wild.

How about a large Division 1 with a completely reflexed perianth. I can feel Tom Bloomer's shudders as he visualises his 'White Star' and Co. completely reflexed! Yet fifty years hence such a bloom could well be the apple of some breeder's eye. Can anyone really see a reverse bi-colour with the white halo extending into the inner perianth petals? Division 10 could well be a source of new formations or, as I dub them to-day, malformations. Division 4 are double daffodils — why not treble daffodils?

An end to my nightmarish dreams — for do we want to stray from the well-trodden paths of to-day except to even more perfection in the forms we now have. It would be interesting to know what others of our fraternity think, while I try and imagine a multi-flowered large Division 1. All right — Not reflexed!!

JOHN MORALEE

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Never regret what might have been — the past that did not happen is as hidden from us as the future we can not see.

Each generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it.

George Orwell

## DAFFODILS IN ICELAND

No, dear Reader, the caption is correct and we have not misspelled the name of our native land. Hereunder we print an extract from a letter which one of our members has received from Reykjavik:

"I am a gardener and at present I have a job in the Municipal Gardens of Reykjavik. For a long time I have been interested in daffodils although I do not grow many of them now. For several years I grew them in pots in my greenhouse and used large plastic containers. After flowering I put them outside but they were again brought inside in the Autumn and kept under the tables until growth was visible in the Spring.

"I lost many of the bulbs one Autumn when I was too late in bringing them into the greenhouse. I now know that the bulbs cannot tolerate much frost if kept outside in pots. But if given some protection from wet (rain or snow) they will withstand the frost we have. I am now ceased to grow daffodils in pots and the bulbs that I am ordering from you now will be planted in a bed outside. Daffodils are quite hardy here if planted in a well drained site. Flowering time is rather variable. I think that mid-May is the usual time. The foliage ripens very late. First now it has started to yellow and wither. In many gardens it is still quite green, perhaps due to a very wet Summer. Next Summer I will write down my observations, flowering times, etc. and let you know what I think might be of interest for you".

The letter containing the above extract was dated the 13th August, 1984. This is the first time that we have heard of our favourite flower being grown in Iceland and we look forward to hearing more about how it fares in the future.



*"My husband is a do-it-yourself expert — every time I ask him to do anything, he says, do it yourself!"*

Courtesy of "The Weekly News"

## MEMBERS OF N.I.D.G.

The following list of members, in alphabetical order, comprises those in full membership as at 31st December, 1984. Should your title, name, address be incorrect please notify our Secretary to whom all correspondence (including membership fees) should be sent. Should you consider that some of your acquaintances should be on the list, ask them to contact the Secretary also with a view to renewing their membership or joining the Group.

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\*By virtue of their positions as Editors of their respective Daffodil Societies' Journals.

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### **"THAT'S NOT MY JOB"**

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

Author Unknown

## **BUY ULSTER DAFFODIL BULBS**

### **● Ballydorn Bulb Farm**

Frank and Patricia Harrison

### **● Carncairn Daffodils**

Robin and Kate Reade

### **● Rathowen Daffodils**

Brian Duncan and  
Clark Campbell