

The Daffodil Society Northern Group



President: Wendy Akers

Chairman: Rae Beckwith

Secretary: Chris Bone

Treasurer: Anne Smales



Northern Group Autumn Report 2 November 2011

The Group's Autumn Meeting was held in Denton early in October. After a short committee meeting we were entertained by Ian Tyler with a powerpoint presentation called American Adventures based on the nine trips he has made to the American Daffodil Society conventions annually. He conveyed the excitement of setting off for America, the friends he has made, the amazing venues and much more. He spoke for an hour without notes and had us laughing and marvelling at such experiences as waking up on board a train crossing the desert and wondering why everything was white – overnight frost of course. We had a successful bulb auction with donated bulbs from Johnny Walkers of Taylors Bulbs, Rae Beckwith, Ivor and Barbara Fox of Miniature Bulbs, Frankie Charlton of Choice Bulbs, Nial Watson of Ringhaddy, Brian Duncan, Jan Pennings and Ron Scamp. We shall add a special class at Harrogate Spring Show in 2012 for members to show their flowers of 'Jamage' from bulbs kindly donated by Ivor and Barbara. This tazetta was bred and raised by George Tarry and will represent a tribute and memorial after he passed away last Autumn. We have expressed our heartfelt thanks to all the generous donors of bulbs.

At the Autumn Show at Harrogate in September we were represented for the first time by a stand created by John Freer with spectacular photographs of daffodils, mainly taken by John and meticulously mounted, which deservedly won a Gold Award. This was a fitting representation on behalf of the Daffodil Society. We also signed up a new member whose details were passed on to Terry Braithwaite at the show. On the Sunday we were represented by Chris Bone, the Northern Group secretary, Rae Beckwith our Chairman and John Freer at the meeting for specialist societies hosted by the North of England Horticultural Society who run the Spring and Autumn Shows. We are planning to try two innovative ideas at next year's Harrogate Spring Show. The first is intended to make the daffodil bureau more welcoming when visitors to the show come to ask daffodil related questions. Instead of being behind a desk, we intend to open the area up so that we can invite questioners to sit down away from the crowds while they make their enquiries. Over the four days of the show we deal with many enquiries as well as dispensing catalogues. Anyone who has done a stint will know that you can soon lose your voice. The second is an attempt to speed up choosing the Grand Champion Bloom. Much time is lost at all major shows over this final segment of judging and at Harrogate we have the added pressure of the opening time on the first day when visitors who have paid a hefty sum for their tickets cannot understand why a portion of the show is blocked to them. We have discussed trying the "Crufts" system where all the judges produce their choice but a nominated senior judge makes the final selection Watch this space, I'll let you know whether it works.

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