

June 22, 2019

Hi James,

I've been going through a box of very old Xerox copies of even older daffodil material. I found the attached piece about the Midland Daffodil Society; unfortunately there is no second page or anything to indicate who wrote it. You may already have this material, but I thought I'd send this on to you in case you don't.

Hope all is well with you.

Mary Lou

Midland Daffodil Society  
MEMORANDUM.

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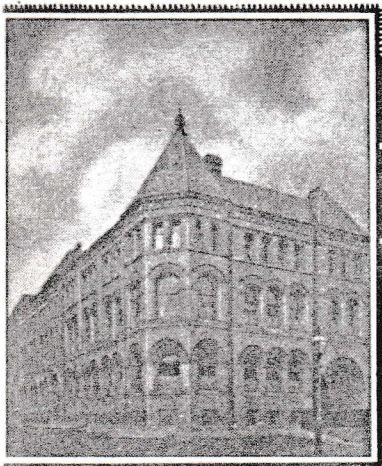
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3rd June, 1933.

*ans  
8/6/33*

Peter R. Barr, Esq.,  
36, Belsize Park,  
London N.W.3.

Dear Mr Barr,

In reply to your letter of the 2nd inst. Mr Robert Sydenham died in 1913 aged 65.

You are quite right the Midland Daffodil Society was first proposed by Professor Hillhouse and Robert Sydenham. A preliminary meeting was held on July 7th 1898 at Mason College, Birmingham to consider the formation of a Daffodil Society. The meeting was attended by the following :- Professor Hillhouse, Robert Sydenham, John Pope, Rev. J. Jacob, Mr W. Spinks and Herbert Smith. Unfortunately all these gentlemen with the exception of myself have passed on. At that meeting it was decided to form the Midland Daffodil Society and its first President was the Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Worcester. Rev. J. Jacob and myself were elected joint Hon. Secretary<sup>ies</sup>, an office we filled jointly until 1911 and from that date I have carried on.

June 25, 2019

Hi James,

Thanks for your email and the attached letter to P R Barr, sent to you by Mary Lou recently. I haven't seen the letter before which was obviously an enquiry sent to the Society's secretary Herbert Smith. Although the second page of the letter is missing, therefore, no signature, it was Herbert Smith's reply to P R Barr, as confirmed by 'he was the only survivor' on the list of attendees at the inaugural meeting.

At the date of the letter, Herbert had completed 35 years as the Society's Hon. Secretary and was also the CEO/Managing Director of Sydenhams by the time he retired from the firm and as Society Secretary several years later! Some chap, some achievement!. Judging by the date of the letter, it seems very likely that Peter Rudolph was soliciting information for his article 'The renaissance of the daffodil' published in the 1933 RHS Yearbook?

I will copy this letter to Mary Lou so she will know who wrote the letter and can make a note of it on the back for future enquiries?

Thank you for that and good to know we can all benefit from shared information preserved in the ADS and DS archives.

Look forward to seeing you later, with Best Regards,

Jan