Awards to People
Malcolm Bradbury

During the last year Nancy Tackett and Ben Blake of the USA have been awarded the Peter Barr Memorial Cup by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and been made Vice Presidents of the Daffodil Society; James Akers of England has been awarded the MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List; the American Daffodil Society (ADS) has awarded its Gold Medal to Peter Ramsay of New Zealand; and the Royal General Bulb Growers’ Association (KAVB) has awarded J F Ch Dix medals to N A Nijssen of the Netherlands and Brian Duncan of Northern Ireland. In their varied ways, each of these people has ‘made a difference’ to horticulture and to the popularity and enjoyment of daffodils and tulips. We offer our congratulations to all of them and briefly highlight their key achievements.

Nancy Tackett and Ben Blake
Nancy Tackett and Ben Blake are well known to daffodil enthusiasts for their ongoing work both on Daffnet and the ADS website. However, in a major new contribution to the daffodil world they have taken Steve Vinisky’s disc of the ADS Illustrated Data Bank, supplemented it with material from the ADS Data Bank and the International Daffodil Register and created DaffSeek, the daffodil photo database sponsored by the ADS. Given its extensive photographic content and ease and speed of use, DaffSeek has proved a great help to daffodil growers, hybridizers and enthusiasts.

The Peter Barr Memorial Cup is awarded annually by the RHS on the recommendation of the Daffodil and Tulip Committee to ‘someone who has done good work of some kind in connection with daffodils.’ Whilst making the award to Nancy and Ben at a reception in London to mark the publication of the International Daffodil Register and Classified List 2008, the President of the RHS, Peter Buckley, commented on the now rather archaic wording used to describe such a significant contribution to the development and enjoyment of daffodils. He also noted that this was the first time since the inception of the award in 1912 that it had been awarded to a team of two. Nancy and Ben were also honoured at Harrogate by being made Vice Presidents of the Daffodil Society.

Presentation to Nancy and Ben by Peter Buckley
(photo James Akers)

James Akers
James Akers is well-known to readers for the many weeks he voluntarily spends each year preparing printer-ready copy of the Yearbook, for subsequently holding stocks of the publication and for distributing it by mail order. Readers will also have seen his interesting articles on tulips and accounts of his searches for wild daffodils. Members of the Daffodil Society will be well aware of the significant contribution he has made over many years to the editing and preparation of their publications. However, it is for ‘voluntary service to tulip horticulture’ that James was awarded the MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List this year. When I telephoned to offer my congratulations, James’
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