

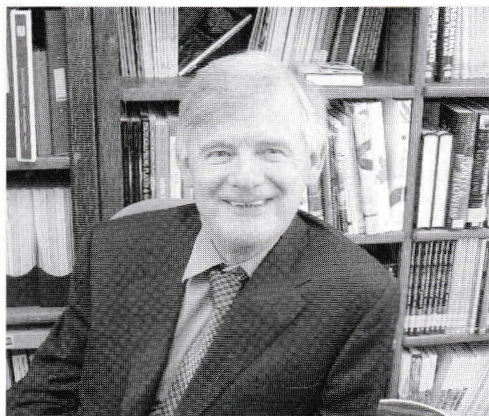
# THE PETER BARR MEMORIAL CUP 2004: AWARDED TO MALCOLM BRADBURY



For the annual award of the Peter Barr Memorial Cup the Daffodil and Tulip Committee of The Royal Horticultural Society casts a wide eye over candidates throughout the world, wherever daffodils are grown. The citation, those "who have done good work of some kind in connection with daffodils" embraces a wide field of activities and involvement, both amateur and professional, and includes botanical study, daffodil breeding, commercial research, exhibition, daffodil society activity and administration as well as aspects of publication, editing and writing. This year's recipient can rightly claim to have an interest in all of these activities and active participation, in all except the commercial aspects. However, it is as Hon Editor of the *RHS Daffodil, Snowdrop and Tulip Yearbook* and as Chairman of the Daffodil and Tulip Year Book Committee since 1993 that he is best known and respected.

Malcolm Bradbury is a family man, born in Cheshire in 1940. He and Joyce, whom he married in 1964 now live in Essex and have three sons and four grandchildren. Having left school at 16 Malcolm worked for a local newspaper and in a drawing office. An urge for further education saw him studying for a London University external degree in Economics at the Manchester College of Commerce, then teaching Economics and Statistics at the City of London College before joining the Civil Service as an Economics Adviser in the Dept. of Transport in 1969. He was promoted to the Senior Civil Service in 1974 and retired from H M Treasury in 2000 though he still does some occasional government interviewing.

Malcolm's interest in daffodils was first aroused at the Chelsea Show in 1972 when he admired Michael Jefferson-Brown's exhibit. Being



lucky enough to work within ten minutes of Vincent Square he then made his way to the 1973 Daffodil Show at which the previous year's interest was confirmed by the array of daffodils on the Richardson trade display and by the prize winners in the competitive classes. He ordered bulbs from Mrs Richardson and started exhibiting at his local show the very next year. The thinker, the statistician and the writer came together in 1977 when an analysis of the relative flowering times of 842 cultivars then in commerce was published in the Daffodil Society's Journal, probably the first indication of Malcolm's analytical approach to which many of us have become familiar.

Another stroke of good fortune was that Malcolm lived within three miles of Jim Pearce, Honorary Secretary of the Daffodil Society and they travelled together to the AGM in 1977. His talents must have been spotted because he was immediately elected to the Committee and has been deeply involved in many aspects of Society activities, as Chairman of the Classification Subcommittee; in the initial moves to train judges; in

encouraging classes for miniature and intermediate daffodils and in preparing the Society's first Approved Lists of Miniature and Intermediate Daffodils.

Malcolm was made a Vice-Chairman of the RHS Daffodil and Tulip Committee in 2004 and has been a member of that committee and the Advisory Panel on Narcissus Classification since 1991. He took over the editorship of the Daffodil and Tulip Yearbook in mid-season in 1993 after the sudden resignation of the previous editor. During this time there have been many pressures to reduce costs and or increase circulation to render the publication more viable. Malcolm faced these challenges with a calm stoicism that led him to initiate many changes. These included changing the cover title to reflect the increasing number of articles on tulips and snowdrops and the greater use of volunteer labour in production, stock holding, distribution and marketing. Suffice it to say that the *2002- 2003 Yearbook* was the probably first to break even in all the years since it was first published in 1913. Malcolm would be the first to pay tribute to his committee for their support and especially to James and Wendy Akers for their expertise and hours of hard work in production and distribution.

Over the years Malcolm has also found time to exhibit at RHS, South East England Daffodil Group and The Daffodil Society shows at which he also regularly acts as a judge. His hybridizing interests have widened and where he formerly specialised in 1W-Y and. division 6 cultivars he now includes miniatures and intermediates, while his two registered daffodils are 'Majestic Gold' 1Y-Y and 'Leading Light' 2Y-R.

Travel has been an important aspect of the Bradbury passion for daffodils and meeting fellow enthusiasts. Malcolm has made two visits to Spain to study and photograph species in the wild, he has been to two American Daffodil Society Conventions and he visited New Zealand in 2000. He has also twice visited Holland and been to see the Jānis Rukšāns nursery in Latvia. In the United Kingdom he is a regular attendee at snow-drop events. In modern parlance people might call this networking and certainly Malcolm keeps in close contact with the many friends he meets along the way - I am often surprised to hear from friends from the other side of the world that they have just had a "phone call from Malcolm".

Malcolm Bradbury is well deserving of the Peter Barr Memorial Cup

Brian S Duncan