

WENDY AKERS

I was very saddened yesterday afternoon by news of the passing of Wendy Akers. Wendy made both an important contribution of her own to our enjoyment of daffodils and did much to enable James to do likewise. This was recognized by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in 2010 when they awarded the Peter Barr Memorial Cup jointly to James and Wendy, on the grounds that they both met the requirement of being 'someone...who has done good work of some kind in connection with daffodils'.

Like many members of the Daffodil Society I first met Wendy when she and James joined the Committee many years ago and helped to run the annual show and edit its publications. I remember her as always being courteous, pleasant in conversation and constructive at meetings.

Wendy famously turned up at the Harrogate Show one year with a single daffodil in her basket and went home with the Best Bloom in Show award; a remarkable achievement. In recent years Wendy focused particularly on successfully exhibiting miniatures and species daffodils but also exhibited hyacinths and tulips at RHS Competitions from time to time.. She was a thorough and well respected judge at major daffodil shows.

Many years ago James came to the rescue of the then *RHS Daffodil and Tulip Yearbook* by offering to prepare copy for publication, thereby avoiding the RHS staff costs that threatened its existence, They also acted as stock holders and mail order distributors for several years. Wendy supported James fully with these time consuming and often inconvenient tasks and despite significant eyesight problems proof read copy annually. An elegant writer, Wendy contributed many show reports, book reviews and accounts of searching for wild daffodils to the *Yearbook*. Along with James Wendy was also for many years a very active member of the Show Schedule Panel that advised and assisted Shows Department in the running of RHS daffodil, hyacinth and tulip shows.

Wendy will be very much missed by her many friends. My thoughts at this sad time are with James and his family.