

## THE 'CARLTON' DAFFODIL

Many years ago, the village used to be regularly visited by Mr Bert Bouwmeester, a bulb grower and breeder from Holland who was well known in the area and sold spring bulbs. The frequency and regularity of Mr Bouwmeester's visits might have had something to do with the fact that he later married Miss Nora Alcock from the former Carlton Post Office. After their marriage, the couple went to live in Holland.

Mr Henry Faulknall can remember having a drink in The Gate one evening with Mr Jack Oldacres (formerly of Gulstone House) and Mr Bert Bouwmeester. When Mr Oldacres asked Mr Bouwmeester why he had called his new daffodil 'Carlton' Mr Bouwmeester answered it was because of the many happy times he had had in the village.

'Carlton' is still one of the best varieties of daffodil for general cultivation in the cold and wet parts of England. In fact, it is so successful that there are concerns that in some localities the garden variety may outcompete the native species of wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* which has a smaller flower with a pale perianth and grows only about 6 inches tall. In March the Daily Telegraph reported that the National Trust was considering removing drifts of 'Carlton' which are beginning to spread out of woodland along the shores of Ullswater and threaten the wild species in the very locality immortalised by Wordsworth:

'I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils.  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.'

Chris Peat