

# Obituary



*Dinton*

## Mr George Engleheart

### THE IMPROVEMENT OF DAFFODILS

Mr George Herbert Engleheart, F.R. Hort.S., who died on Sunday at the age of 84, was universally known in gardening circles for his work on the improvement of daffodils. He was the *doyen* of a small band of British amateur gardeners who specialized in the breeding of these popular flowers, and his influence on the trend of daffodil cultivation was marked. By his maintenance of a high critical standard allied to a sense of proportion and elegance, he probably did more than anyone else in the late Victorian times to improve these flowers from the gardener's angle as distinct from that of the show bench.

He first began to exhibit his hybrid daffodils in 1891 at the Royal Horticultural Society's shows in Buckingham Gate drill-hall, and by using parents that had not been used before produced hybrids that attracted general attention. His first outstanding success came in 1898 with the well-known red-cupped daffodil called Will Scarlet, the bulbs of which changed hands at first at about £35 apiece, and his last was Beersheba – a very different flower.

Engleheart, who was a grand-nephew of the engraver of that name of the middle eighteenth century, was a scholar of Exeter College, Oxford, and took his M.A. degree in 1877. On leaving the university he was ordained, and after a brief curacy at Lucton St George, near Leicester, was appointed vicar at Chute Forest, on the borders of Hampshire and Dorset. It was during his 20 years' vicariate there that, inspired mainly by his kinsman, Dean Herbert, a famous amateur gardener of his day, he began the experiments in daffodil hybridizing that went on continuously there and at Dinton, near Salisbury, where he settled after leaving Chute Forest. Some years ago he was received into the Roman Catholic faith. He was an active member of the Society of Antiquaries, taking an especial interest in Roman antiquities, and in Stonehenge, on which he was an authority.

There will be a Requiem, and the burial will take place at Little Clarendon, Dinton, Wilts, tomorrow, at 10.30 a.m.  
(*The Times*, Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1936 page 16)

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