

HINTS AND TIPS FOR EXHIBITING IN THE SPRING SHOW

Here are some hints and tips for those who would like to enter the show but are not sure of procedures. These are for your guidance only and we hope that they will help you to understand the basic "rules" and to present your exhibit in the best way.

Read the Schedule carefully and make sure that your exhibit is in the correct class and follow the instructions regarding the size, numbers required, species, type of container etc.

FLORAL ART

On the day of the Show the tables are available from early morning. To save time it is better to start your arrangement at home. Water and preparation tables are provided at the Show so you will be able to bring your partly finished exhibits in to complete on the spot but allow sufficient time to do this.

In exhibiting flowers and Floral Art all living material must be in water or wet floral foam.

Make sure that the finished arrangement fits within the stated measurements required or your exhibit may be disqualified.

HORTICULTURAL

Water is available at the show.

Note the number of specimens required and cut more flowers from the garden than you need. It is a good idea to take more blooms than you need in case of accidents in transport.

Specimens should be arranged as attractively as possible. In a close competition points may be gained for the better presentation so a jam jar would not be a good idea!

Daffodils/Narcissi.

A flower that is in good condition, is well formed and has a good colour and texture, and with a stem which is neither weak nor bent. In a class with three or more blooms to a vase, points will be gained for uniformity.

Tulips

A flower that is in good condition, unblemished, and of good colour. The stems should be stiff enough to carry the flower without artificial support. The foliage should be stiff.

Hellebores

Blooms should be fresh, unblemished and not developing their seed heads.

A vase of flowersshould be exactly that - a vase of cut flowers. Do not include extra foliage other than that on the actual flower. Select nice fresh flowers and display in a vase to give a nicely balanced effect that is pleasant to view from all sides.

Pot Plants

Pots or containers should be clean and undamaged. Staking, tying or wiring should be neatly done and not detract from the appearance of the plant.

The plants must be in a good fresh condition and well nourished. The foliage should be clean, healthy and undamaged by weather, pests or faulty handling. Flowering or fruiting plants should display flowers of a good size and colour and have good ornamental value.

COOKERY

Judges will consider taste, texture and overall appearance.

Make sure preserve jars are not smeared . Jars should be clear glass without any old labels stuck on them. Clearly label all jars and bottles with type and date.

Staging is important so display cakes on pretty plates, perhaps with a doyley.

If you cover your produce with cling film it should be easy to remove by the judges.

HANDICRAFTS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Both these classes are fun and very interesting for visitors to the Show.

If you have made any of the handicraft items listed please bring them to the Show for us all to enjoy.

There is plenty of time before the show to go out with your camera and capture the required subjects. You may even have a treasured memory already waiting to be shown. Most of us do this for fun and visitors are particularly interested in looking at the exhibits. Let us all see what you can produce. As long as the photograph is in focus it is worth showing !

ENCOURAGE BEGINNERS AND THE CHILDREN

If you know someone in the Society who grows lovely Spring flowers, or has a beautiful pot plant, try to encourage them to exhibit this year. Likewise, if you know any children in Harnham, let them see the Schedule and suggest to them that they might like to take part in the Show.

Entering your own flowers, floral art designs, cakes, jams, handicrafts and photographs can be a very enjoyable experience and it is also a special way of supporting your Society's Spring Show. It provides an interest for all members and visitors to the Show especially when there is more competition. As our chairman says " I do urge everyone to have a go. There is no need to fear your entry is inadequate; the essential thing is to take part and enjoy the day."