

# Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

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President Mrs Lorna Price



Chairman Mrs Sue Lipscomb

Dear Members,

*I was just reading through some of my Chairman's letters, written for the newsletter sent to you at this time of year and I am amazed by the variety of winter weather that we have experienced over the past few years. We have had mild winters, extremely wet winters, winters bringing us heavy snow and now it appears that we are to prepare ourselves for a really very cold period. This is a big challenge for those of us who are keen to enter the Spring Show. In my previous house I had a lounge with a large window that faced due south and that was my secret weapon when bringing along some of my more tardy daffodils. Sadly, in my tiny cottage I have no such secret weapons so am far more reliant on the weather.*

*Do have a good look at the Spring Show Schedule for 2018. If you are a regular competitor then we look forward to your entries this year, however if you rarely if ever enter, why not choose one or two items and try your hand this year? You truly do not have to be a daffodil grower; maybe photography, cookery, crafts or floral art might appeal. Or maybe you could inspire children you know to enter this year, their entries are always a joy to look at.*

*With very best wishes,  
Sue Lipscomb*

*May we remind you that your annual Subscription for 2018 is now overdue: £5 per member (£6 if your newsletter is delivered by Royal Mail). If your subscription renewal is still outstanding, please send to*

*Ken Halls, 10 Thorne Way, Buckland, Aylesbury, HP22 5TL*

**CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:- ACB&DB Horticultural Society**

## **Other News**

*Ralph Weston has given an interview about the Spring Show and Allotments to Wycombe Sound. It will be broadcast on March 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*Have you booked your seat on the Coach to Kew Gardens yet? The date is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July and the cost is £26 Adult/£24 concessions and includes entrance fee, coach and tip for the driver. For more details contact Diane Kolonko (631122).*

## Showing Tips for Novice Daffodil Exhibitors

By Graham Thirkettle

These notes are to help you to enjoy the Spring Show experience when exhibiting your daffodils.

Please read the Show Schedule carefully. There is also a document on the Society's web site (follow the Spring Show link) to assist you in understanding the classification of daffodils by their Divisions.

**Things you will need** (vases and moss are supplied by the Society, also lip pins to hold the card specifying the bloom name): -

Plain card to cut up for labels to write the bloom name - please write "unknown" if you are not sure; You could, of course, write out the names of your blooms at home in the peace and quiet.

Small watering can or an empty plastic bottle to top up your vases.

Soft cloth to wipe your vases.

Cotton buds, small soft brush, larger soft brush to remove spots, insects and smooth any creases in your blooms.

### **One Week before the Show**

Check regularly on your flowers, look for good length, strong stems and unblemished flowers.

Pick 2-3 days before the show and place your blooms in a bucket of deep tepid water up to their necks.

Many flowers especially white and pinks, need time to develop their colour fully. Make sure you label all blooms up with the name and division they belong to. Also make sure they do not touch each other (many exhibitors use chicken wire over the top of a bucket to keep them apart).

Flowers picked early are generally better size and smoother as they have had a chance to fully absorb water.

**Beware** - avoid placing these containers or buckets in full sun. Place in cool garage or shed

Pick more flowers as they mature and add to bucket or buckets.

You may start staging on the Friday evening from 7pm - it is often much quieter then and there is always someone, if not myself, to help you out.

### **Moving blooms to a local show**

This can easily be done with bottles and old milk or bottle crates labelling up your blooms as you go. Make sure they are secure in the car for that short journey to the school.

*Do not let the blooms touch in transit.*

Once at the School make yourself known and I will always be willing to show you the art of staging and what is involved for you to enjoy yourself and maybe win a few prizes.

### **Above all please do not hesitate to ask for advice**

Many regards Graham

Good Luck at the show and thank you very much for exhibiting.