

Talks and Demonstrations 2009/10

Over many years I have developed a range of talks and demonstrations on a diverse range of Horticultural subjects.

New for 2009/10

Organic Gardening

This talk covers The Soil-Composts and Manures a DIY approach, Getting Started-How to grow, Crop rotation, Weed Control -Managing the plot, Pest Control-Companion planting and organic control Using your space-Crops to grow in a small space, what to Grow, Easy Fruit and Vegetables

Vegetables on a small scale

I have been growing vegetables on the Patio for many years and this talk and demonstration takes you though easy to grow containerised food crops that can be grown on the balcony or patio.

Existing Talks

Growing and Showing Roses:

I started showing Roses in 1988 locally and at a national level in 1989 gaining two silver medals for best in show also winning the Southern championship (150's). I am also a Royal National Rose Society Judge. For the last 10 years I have endeavoured to grow my roses organically and this comes across in my talk and demonstration.

The talk is made up of a Practical demonstration of pruning, use of tools, fertilisers and sprays, preparation and care of roses hints on good cultivation and preparing blooms and exhibits for show approx 1 hour, this is followed by a short presentation on good garden and exhibition varieties and show exhibits.

Miniature Roses

I grow more miniatures today than I do the larger varieties and I am fascinated by their beauty and form. I also discuss and talk about the readily available miniatures found in supermarkets florists and garden centres. I also discuss the breeding of miniatures and current trends. I look at the preparation and care of roses offer hints on good cultivation and preparing blooms and exhibits for show approx 1 hour. This is followed by a short presentation on miniature exhibition varieties and how they are shown. (I will normally have Roses for sale)

Growing and Showing Daffodils

I have grown and shown daffodils since 1991 at both Local and National shows I have judged at the Royal Horticultural Societies for the last 7 years and serve on the South East England Daffodil Society committee, currently I grow some 250 varieties including many Australian and American cultivars which totals over 1200 bulbs excluding species. The talk varies considerable depending on the seasons for planting techniques to recognising the divisions and preparing blooms for show. I have an extensive collection of slides and presentations on Daffodils. (I can take orders for bulbs if local and depending on season may have pots or bulbs for sale).

Spring Bulbs

This is again a combined evening of both demonstrations and presentation taking the audience through the range of easy bulbs from January to May I normally go the planting needs and requirements of a range of bulbs I also go through the creation of planting of spring bulb containers which can flower from January to May (I will normally have a range of potted bulbs for sale) I will also bring pots of bulbs currently in flower in my garden for display.

Summer Bulbs

This is again a combined evening of both demonstrations and visual presentation taking the audience through the range of easy to grow bulbs from June to December this talk tends to concentrate on Lilies, Gladioli, Nerines and Lycoris (a rare bulb from China and Japan) I normally cover the planting needs and requirements of a range of other bulbs. I will also bring pots of bulbs currently in flower in my garden for display if available (I sometimes have bulbs and corms available for sale.)

Planting and Using Alpine plants and containers

This is one of the most practical sessions I do and I often get a member of your society to assist me in planting an Alpine container. I talk through, compost and planting ideas, propagation techniques, aftercare and feeding and finally give a presentation of my top 20 that I always grow some badly some well. (Normally bring a small selection of Alpines for sales as will be the demonstration planters)

What the Judge is looking for

I am a Royal National Rose Society Judge, Daffodil society Judge, qualified member of the Essex Guild of Horticultural Judges (where I served as training officer for new Judges for several years,) I am also a regular Judge at some Royal Horticultural Society shows.

This evening I ask your members to bring anything of Horticultural interest along with good or bad vegetables, fruit or flowers and pot plants, we then sort these into a mini show during which I will then discuss the merits of each entry and exhibit and guide your members into what the judge is looking for. This often encourages members to exhibit at local shows especially if given close to your own show dates.

Slide Shows and Presentations only

Flora and Fauna of Australia's Botanical Gardens

I have had the good fortune to visit Australia twice and have visited all the Botanical gardens in Sydney and its environs together with the National Botanical Gardens in Canberra

Four weeks in Zimbabwe

The sights, sounds and emotions of this African nation includes slides of animals, flora, Victoria Falls and even a few steam trains.

Talks only

Basic concepts of Garden Design

Building Garden Pools and Water Features

Soil Chemistry (what happens under the surface)

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