

Exhibitors Notes for 2020 Spring Bulb and Camellia Show

This year the Spring Bulb and Camellia show is being held in a new venue – The Abbey at Gold Creek.

As with any change, there will be some things that are different.

Firstly, the daffodils will be staged and judged on the Friday while the remainder of the show will be staged Friday night and Saturday morning.

Secondly, as this will be the first show we have held in the Abbey it will be a learning experience for all of us. Things might not be exactly where you are used to finding them and we may need to adjust things as we go. Please come ready to be adaptable and flexible and things will turn out just fine.

I attend many shows and often I do not know other than on a map where the town is let alone the hall, before I leave home. What will be the arrangements for dropping off my entries? Where can I park? What will be the set up for staging? Will there be tables available? Will there be water available?

Two things make it easier – come prepared and be flexible.

I can answer a few of these questions.

1. You will be able to drive to the front door to drop off your entries but then please move your car to the car park and walk back.
2. There will be tables available to set up your entries – they may well be located in two or three different places around the hall. I have staged in the past in a tent (and yes it was cold!), on a veranda (it was so windy the vases could hardly stand up!) and on a stage (walking up and down stairs just added to the challenge). These days when I do not know what to expect I bring my own little table that I can set up at a bench height to save my back. It is a small table and often it is all I have had available. At the Abbey we should have tables available for everyone.
3. Yes, there will be water available. I try to bring my own to almost every show as I am carrying the flowers in bottles but that is not always possible. It is a good idea to bring a bottle, small jug or watering can that you can use for filling vases as required.
4. Yes, the vases will be available as usual.

When you are going to a new venue it is an idea to give yourself a bit of extra time to sort things out – try not to cut it fine with your staging.

As always, it helps to be organised and to have sorted through your entries before you head to the show. I find staging goes so much easier if I know what is going in what class before I leave home. I can, and usually do, make adjustments as I go but I think of that as fine tuning. If you are not organised like this (and some days I fail) it takes so much longer and often your best entries can get missed. This is particularly true when heading to a new venue.

It also helps to remember all your staging kit. I have mine in a couple of bags I can just pick up as and when required.

Finally, just adapt and make the most of what you are presented with. Help each other out if someone needs something and do not be afraid to ask.

Graeme Davis