



Welcome to our Spring Show, as I write this the weather is cold and wet, but despite that I hope that we will have a great display of spring blooms to look at and judge!

Tonight, tea and coffee will be served during the voting stage. The rules are simple: - you can vote once in each class for the entry you consider the best, by putting a tick on the slip of paper under the entry. Every entry will get one point, the first, second and third in each class (determined by counting the ticks) will get four, three and two points respectively. The winners of each class will be eligible for the "Best in show" category, which will be judged by the committee. The evening will conclude with a prize giving ceremony, when I will hand out the trophies to the winners, the **Supreme Cup** for "Best in Show" and the **"Spring Show Rose Bowl"** for the highest number of points overall.

I know that growing the mystery bulbs this year has been a bit of a challenge this year, but I can now reveal their identity as Tulipa Praestans Unicum. The catalogue says: "The contrast between the red blossoms of this cultivar and the white edged foliage creates a dramatic display. A highly visible tulip, Unicum stands out even in the densest of spring gardens. Each grey-green stem holds four to six blooms in a shade of brilliant red. Praestans Unicum is a wonderful naturaliser"

Moving on from tonight, there is good news as the schedules for the Alresford show on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September** are printed and also available online at [www.alresfordhorticultural.org](http://www.alresfordhorticultural.org) and [www.alresfordshow.co.uk](http://www.alresfordshow.co.uk) (under What's On –Horticultural Section)

Class 80 is for members only and is for a pot grown fuchsia, all the same variety. Ann has young plants of the hardy Fuchsia "Snowcap" available for 50p, please buy a couple and enter this class. As a bonus, you can plant the fuchsias out after the show and enjoy them in the garden!

We also need people to volunteer as Stewards on the day too! Please see Ann for details.

More immediate dates for your diaries, as you see we have a busy time ahead.

<b>Wednesday 1st May :-</b>	Visit to the Savill Garden
<b>Wednesday 8th May:-</b>	Marcus Dancer-"Climbing Plants for Sun and Shade"
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May:-</b>	Coffee Morning and Plant Swap 10:00-12:00 Community Centre
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June:-</b>	Rose Show and talk by Tom Stone

The Savill Garden has 35 acres of interconnected gardens include the Hidden Gardens, Spring Wood, the Summer Gardens and the New Zealand Garden and should be lovely on 1<sup>st</sup> May

Finally good luck to all of you who have entered tonight.

Stephen Morley  
Chairman

This newsletter and our programme are also available on <http://www.alresfordhorticultural.org>