

**MEOPHAM GARDENERS ASSOCIATION FORUM
MONDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2016**

Q. What to do with show bulbs after the show.

A. Advice from June Wilkins, show judge, was to cut off the flower heads once they had faded, leaving the stems. Feed using high potage feed every fortnight until the leaves die down naturally. Take the bulbs out of the pot, dry them in a warm, sunny atmosphere, put in brown paper bags until it's time to plant them again.

Barbara has tried that method but didn't think the flowers were as good as in the first year. She suggested it may be better to replant the bulbs in the ground rather than in a pot.

Q. How to prune a Victoria plum tree

A. Don't prune unless you have to. A recent RHS Magazine article recommended that you avoid pruning anything in the prunus family in the winter as this can risk infection by silver leaf disease.

Q. What to do about a clump of daffodils which have buds that don't flower, but just turn brown.

A. No clear answer although Jim Buttress had recently suggested giving daffodils a feed.

If the same happens to Camellias, it is because they have dried out in August/September.

Q. Taking cuttings from Verbena Bonariensis

A. Take cuttings during spring and summer, use rooting compound. If old plants start to form new shoots, suggest cutting them down after the risk of frost has passed.

Q. I have a very tall Hoya, with lots of shoots. I'd be happy to weave them in and out, but they are too stiff – can they be cut off?

A. You would have to weave them while they are young. Cut them back to get some side shoots.

Q. The duck weed in my pond hasn't disappeared because of the mild winter. I've tried scraping it off, but it has grown back very quickly.

A. Could use chemicals if you have no fish in there, or keep scraping!

Q. How can I get rid of Mind Your Own Business.

A. Napalm!