

Top tips & Rants

Not so many rants this time - think I've run out of steam. But don't relax too much. This is bound to be a very temporary state of affairs...

Meanwhile, with the festive season fast approaching, we're getting the shop ready for all the Christmas goodies. We're given the shop another make-over to provide even more space for you to walk around and look at what's 'hot' for this year. Looks like the 'natural' look is in: snow, whites, clear glass; plants in groups of the same variety and nice, natural containers; bulbs, bulbs and more bulbs. Hyacinths are double flowering and multi-flowering Amaryllis come large and mini, multi-flowering, two and three stems of flowers and five or six flowering stems. The motto of this story is check how your bulb is supposed to develop, in terms of size or number of stems - and don't settle for any old thing!

This year, our bunch of happy helpers (Rowan Design's very own elves!) are already champing at the bit, looking out their furry fleeces, boots and warm socks and looking forward to festive fun in the shop. First up is the Biggar Shopping Evening on Friday 27 November when the shop will be open from 5pm till late. Biggar twinkles away at Christmastime and with most shops trading, there are very few empty retail spaces and this really does make a difference. We tend to get a lot of visitors early on in the evening - must be our nice coffee with a little special something added. It's fun to watch folk's faces as they take a first sip, then a slurp, then a gulp. We'll also be serving some tasty treats and there may even be a goody bag made up of ??? - fun things from our trip to the Netherlands to visit two huge flower and plant shows.

This year, to make things easier for everyone, we will be open on Christmas Day itself so you can collect your orders or just drop in for a last minute gift. Sorry no deliveries that day - it will be just me in the shop. Our delivery ladies will be having a well-earned rest in front of a cosy fire so, if you're in a hurry, please bear with us on Christmas Day. We will also be open on Boxing Day through to New Year's Eve for all those visiting gifts.

As ever, we look forward to seeing you in the shop and if you need any help or advice in the flower or plant line, please just ask. And for advice on all sorts of other things under the sun, well we can probably help you with that too - our helpers come from all walks of life and are very multi-talented.

Hope to see you soon, but for now we'll sign off with all good wishes for a happy Christmas and a good new year in 2016.