

Welcome to our entry for this year's bulb display competition.

After last year we decided to make a simple display, or so we thought!

The theme chosen this year is 'The Secret Garden', based on the classic children's book. We chose this because bulbs are planted under the ground and spend many months hidden from sight before they emerge in the spring.

We have used the characters in the book as our main characters, i.e. the young girl Mary is sat on her swing in front of the 'garden' surrounded by the first of several robins, a tree full of keys and our Hyacinth and Paperwhite Narcissi.

As you enter the walled garden you are greeted by the first robin with a speech bubble welcoming you to the display. The robin crops up in many places in the display accompanied by speech bubbles giving the customer valuable information.

The bulbs are arranged around the walls of the garden, starting with a daffodil wall for 'fill a bag' followed by dwarf narcissi and tulips, a wall of miscellaneous bulbs and a wall of crocuses with bees and other wildlife and accessories to highlight the importance of crocuses in spring.

You may notice that virtually all of our bulbs are 'loose' in boxes. This is because we have never been successful selling packets! We had become so frustrated by this that we have even bought packet varieties and split them into boxes to sell loose! Amazingly this is working! Bulb sales are running at double previous years! We have also netted a percentage of each variety to make simple 'pick-me-up' packs which have been very well received.

The final wall is dedicated to 'Questions and Answers'. The twenty most commonly asked questions and their answers are displayed on the wall and there is also a take-away leaflet containing all the information.

The pictures on the main wall are all taken by one of our staff members and mostly from our nursery when the bulbs are flowering in the spring.

Lastly, the centre of the display may appear open, but it provides easy access to the bulbs and also doubles as the location for our twice monthly talks on various topics, including 'bulbs' last month. The setting is providing a good auditorium and a very good advert for your bulbs.