



# MICKFIELD HOSTAS



## What a great start to the show season...

Receiving the best RHS Lindley exhibit in 2018 award certainly ups the ante for the forthcoming season.

Hopefully, everyone will enjoy our displays again this season as we offer comparison of ground grown versus container grown tips and tricks for the best looking Hosta.

## Harrogate Spring Flower Show

We are currently in between Harrogate Spring Flower Show and Malvern Spring Festival, only back at the nursery for a week, so it is a very busy time.

The Harrogate Show was less successful than we had hoped but we did get a Gold for our display, which was quite funny considering Mel forgot to get hold of something to dress the naturally planted section. Luckily a local turf contractor had some spare rolls, which enabled us to create the grassy mounds underneath the plants.

[Click here for the video](#)

Sometimes things do not go according to plan and the first show of the season usually sees us forget something, but there are ways around even impossible looking situations. Over the years we have become quite adept at cobbling a display together at the last minute when something hasn't quite gone right. When we used to stage naturally planted schemes we often used to scour Hookstone Wood (which sits behind the showground) for mossy wood, leaves and various items we could use to complete our displays. They always seemed to take more infill than we had allowed for.



## RHS Lindley Award for 2018

What a thrill to have our Hampton Court Palace Flower Show display considered to be the best Lindley exhibit shown to the Royal Horticultural Society during 2018.

Mel and David went to the RHS Hall in London to receive the award on 8th April and had a lovely time with the other award winners and graduates of the RHS Masters programme. The banner at the top of the newsletter shows the display, which many of you will be familiar with as I have used it several times.

Wandering around woods and gardens does give you brilliant ideas for your own garden spaces, so if you are ever looking for inspiration you could do worse than visit your local woods. Hopefully we will remember everything for Malvern.

### Malvern Spring Festival

We are currently busy gathering stock together for the show, based on the plants Mel has chosen for the display. We cannot usually re-use plants from Harrogate as they do not like spending time in the Hall there. The display plants often bleach and stretch whilst under the artificial light and any unsold stock stretches in storage, so it isn't ideal and gives us a lot of work to do in between the two shows.

Fortunately we have more time after Malvern and the next show in [our calendar](#) to do more and Mel is hoping to get back into the garden for some weeding now the plants are emerging more rapidly.

Despite the warm weather we have had, the nights have remained very cold and the soil has not fully warmed yet. As a consequence, many ground grown plants are only just emerging and unfurling. Don't panic if you fear you might have lost a hosta, it may just be a little reluctant and some varieties do emerge later than others.

### Finally for now...

A familiar face on the show circuit will be changing mid-month when Kerry of Fernatix gets his long-established beard shaved off for charity. Any of you who know Kerry will realise this is a major sacrifice and not something he has undertaken lightly. It doesn't help that his fellow exhibitors will be as merciless as ever with the results, and we are not expecting him to look any less grumpy without the facial hair!

If the weather changes and we get a cold summer we will of course blame him.

Speak soon

Team Mickfield Hostas

Photo credit for me with the vase: Richard Dawson, RHS

## Malvern Spring Festival

Hope to see you there...

If you would like us to bring a pre-order for collection at the show, please let us know by **Friday 3rd May**.



### Hairy issues

**15th May 2019** sees the removal of a certain beard in aid of Marie Curie.

See if you can spot this 'Fernatic' once he has done the deed...

In the meantime, if you would like to help Kerry raise more cash - please visit his [Just Giving page](#)

