

**WALTHAM GARDENERS' SOCIETY  
FOR WALTHAM AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES**

**ROSES – PLANTING, CULTIVATION AND CARE  
BY ROBERT SMITH  
TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020.**

It was a pleasure to welcome Robert Smith from Layham Garden Centre, one of the few rose specialists in Kent.

Robert has been cultivating roses at Layham for over 25 years and started his talk by explaining how roses were budded on wild rose stock. The stock used is Rosa Laxa a variety that throws few suckers, and Robert handed round small pieces of rose buds that would be inserted into a small cut in the stock and bound with raffia or a rubber patch for the new bud to heal in the cut. Robert said also that they always bud on the west side.

Whilst roses are in the nursery ground they are fed with proprietary rose food and sprayed regularly with bug killer and fungus fighter.

Bare root roses are lifted from the nursery in November for customers bare root orders or potted on for sale as pot versions early the following year. Planting of bare root roses can proceed November onwards weather permitting, prepare the planting hole a spade and a half deep use Michorizal fungus to coat the roots to aid root development and plant the rose with the ground level with the budding union. Prune growth to about 30cm to prevent wind rock and await growth in Spring.

Robert recommended Provado Ultimate bug killer and Systhane Fungus Fighter for regular application throughout the Spring and Summer with Rose Clear Ultra as an interim treatment.

Subsequent annual pruning Robert recommended with Floribundas prune by 1/3, Hybrid Teas prune hard and Climbing Roses reduce by 1/3 and ensure you tie them back in a fan shape and always prune to an outward facing bud and at an angle to shed water.

Robert recommended an annual feed with Westland Rose food or Top Rose and top dressing with well rotted compost or horse manure.

In answer to a question on moving roses this should be done in the winter period digging out a large root ball to help transfer.

Robert concluded with a few suggested varieties for Climbing roses, Ramblers and Bush roses and there followed numerous questions which Robert expertly answered.

**We hope future events will proceed but are dependent on the progress of the current Coronavirus outbreak, please access our website for updates.**

*All events at 7.30 p.m. at Waltham Village Hall unless stated otherwise.*