

Bert RIP

I was away on holiday when our previous Chairman Bert Filer passed away on 7th March. There were many current and former members of the WHS at his funeral. Many kind words were said regarding his involvement with both the WHS and Weston in Bloom.

I would like to mention just a few thoughts that will remain with me about Bert

The first time I really came into close contact with Bert was when I entered the Garden Competition, many years ago. Bert suggested I enter my yellow dahlia into the next month's Flower Show, as he liked it very much and he thought it would do well. I had never been to the Flower Show, but I followed his advice and I entered the show. I did not win any prize for the dahlia, and have not won any prize for the dahlia in the 10 years I have been entering it. But he converted me into a Flower Show enthusiast.

The following year when Bert came with the judges for the Garden Competition, he said thank you to me, after his inspection and informed me I had fewer weeds in my garden than the previous year!

At one of the monthly meetings Bert made a request for younger members of the WHS to help set up the tables at the following year's Flower Show, as the existing committee members were struggling with the heavy tables. I rang his house a couple of days later and spoke to Cynthia, offering my services with the tables. Bert rang me back a couple of hours later and thanked me for the offer. Little did I know that within three weeks Bert had convinced me that I would be the ideal man to take over the role of Flower Show Secretary, and join the WHS Committee.

On several occasions when a speaker is unable to attend our monthly meetings, we have had to improvise and give a short talk and demonstration about growing and caring for our favourite plants. Bert's speciality was the begonia. On several occasions I have heard members ask "what sort of compost do you use and what do you feed your begonias with?". His reply was a Multi-purpose Compost from B&Q or any Supermarket or Garden Centre. He then carried on with his talk. Never did he reveal secrets of feeding his beloved begonias.

Bert and Cynthia have been very supportive of me since I became Chairman of WHS, for which I am very grateful. Thank you.

John Chapman,
Chairman