

Special Feature

Just Another Day

“It must be lovely to work with flowers all day” is the usual response when people realise I’m a florist.

Actually I also work with buckets, bleach, rusty wires and quite a selection of creepy crawlies, which probably stowed away in Columbia. I treat them all with suspicion. There is no typical day, each one is so varied. Sometimes there is just me ticking along, sometimes there are three of us going frantic.



Early start

A day usually starts with the arrival of big, heavy boxes of fresh flowers, delivered overnight from the Dutch market. The flowers must be cut, conditioned and placed in freshly sterilised buckets with water and flower food. Invoices are checked, flowers priced and any faulty stock reported. Check the order pad to see what is on the agenda: funeral work, done the evening before, will need to be delivered. If a wedding order is to be prepared, I call in my loyal team; we all trained together many years ago. The church or civil venue will need to be decorated. The ivy, which was picked and washed the day before, is draped around, and then the reception room will be decorated. Have you ever wondered how the ivy gets up the marquee pole or the arch over the church door? We need to be acrobats at times. Suffering from vertigo is not good for a florist you know!

Temperamental flowers

The bride’s bouquet is always the last thing to be done, late at night or early morning, depending on the weather. It is a challenge stopping a lily opening too much in the heat or persuading it to open in the cool. It is ironic that we work in hot marquees in July and cold churches in December. Funeral flowers can also be very challenging. I have recently done a golf ball on a

tee, a golf club (it had to be a driver), a whisky bottle, an aeroplane and a war medal; “The Italy Star”. The Internet is useful for printing off a picture as a pattern to work from. The computer is now my normal means of communicating with a local restaurant and conference centre, exchanging emails for details of their weekly requirements.

Nearly finished

Bud vases are delivered to restaurants and empty vases collected. All bridal flowers are sprayed and put in a cool, dark place overnight to be checked and boxed for delivery the following day. Order pads are checked again to make sure I have the necessary flowers, frames and sundries. Is that the end of the day? Well, possibly, but there is the ordering to do, books to update and I did promise that bride her estimate by the end of the week! Yes it must be lovely to work with flowers all day.

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