

Trees a crowd – but no problem for Tenterden florist

You expect to find flowers in a flower shop. But trees.....?

However, when long-established Tenterden florist Barry Jones & Sons was asked to provide trees for a client's garden party on Saturday (11 June), the shop's staff proved as adept at potting a palm as they are at presenting a pretty posy.

Says proprietor Daren Jones: "It was probably one the most unusual request I've ever received, and it was certainly the largest order we've had in the past five years.

"We handmade 10 trees out of ivy, peonies and alchemilla – each six foot tall – potted seven palm trees, and sculpted a further four spiral topiary trees. And that was before we prepared a dozen giant glass bowls filled with fresh flowers."

The unusual order took Daren and his team of three almost a week to prepare, including delivery of the entire order to the customer in Rye.

It was the latest demonstration that the shop is prepared to go the extra mile for customers. Last winter, when Kent's snowy roads were at a virtual standstill, Daren and his team delivered 17 bouquets in a single day.

"As an independent trader in an era of multinational retailers, we have to try that bit harder – and we do", said Daren.

13th June, 2011