

WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



HQ & TRADING POST
RYLANDS LANE
WYKE REGIS
WEYMOUTH DT4 9PY

Founded 1925
Affiliated to the RHS & DFHS
President Dr Brian Shaw

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Price
10p

OPENING TIMES
WEDNESDAY 2pm – 4pm
SATURDAY 9.30am – 12.30pm

OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

HARVEST SUPPER FOR HANGERS HEROES



Photo - istockphotos.com

Harvest Supper

Saturday 27th October
from 6.30pm in the Trading Post

Home-made Pumpkin or Vegetable Soup and Apple Cake!

Only £4 a head

Do you have the heaviest pumpkin?

The weigh-in starts at 5pm, but you can bring your exhibit any time from 9.30am

Not entered yet? Late entries of £1 per pumpkin on the day

Classes for children and adults

with prizes kindly donated by the Marquis of Granby Restaurant

There is a competition for the Best Carved Pumpkin, too

Non-Members welcome

Hangers Heroes is a registered charity
that works to raise funds for various
local small charities and other
not-for-profit organisations.

<http://www.hangersheroes.co.uk/>



Hangers Heroes

Small charities remain close to the true spirit of
charity - the workers are usually volunteers who
give their time and effort because they care.

But it's difficult for a small charity to do the work
and raise funds at the same time.

Hangers Heroes fills the fund-raising role.

PROPAGATION DAY

Would you like to know how to take cuttings?

Root cuttings - Layering - Semi-ripe stem cuttings

Now is the best time of year to do it.

For free tuition and guided practice come to the Trading Post on

Saturday 13th October at 2pm.

And ... you can take home a free cutting!

The recent propagation day was very popular and enjoyable - here's another chance !

AUTUMN JUVENILE HOGS



Photo credit pixabay.com

After our long hot summer, hedgehogs are having litters well into the Autumn. So if you are cutting or strimming long grass or undergrowth in preparation for winter, do check the area carefully for hedgehog nests or young hoglets (and please also consider leaving some areas wild until Spring for foraging and hibernating hogs). Bonfires also provide cover, nesting and hibernation sites and should be either built on the day they are to be lit, or moved and rebuilt entirely on the day to make sure no hogs are burned.

Late born hoglets may not have time to put on enough fat for successful hibernation before the cold weather starts.

After mid-October, any hedgehog found weighing less than 450gms, should be picked up (wearing gloves), placed in a high-sided box with shredded newspaper and put in a quiet place.

Then call Portland Hedgehog Rescue who can take it in and fatten it up to the ideal hibernation weight of 600-650gms.

If the weather stays mild, the fattened hog could be released again in a few weeks, or it may be cared for until Spring.

And remember, if a hedgehog is out during the day or appears ill or injured in any way it should be brought into care regardless of weight. The only exception to this is if a hog seen in the day is active and purposeful – it may be a mum foraging and taking a break from her young.

Jo Morland

Hedgehog Friendly Portland 01305 860461 email: portlandhedgehog@jomorland.f9.co.uk

GARDEN DESIGN

Autumn brings the opportunity to make changes in the floral borders.

Now is the time to lift and move plants, often dividing them, to arrange them in better positions, if desired.

One of the finest designers for colour was Gertrude Jekyll, who set the standard for 'pictorial' planting.

She wrote articles for magazines, giving very opinionated advice and this is a good example:

From the Journal of the RHS, vol. liv, part 2, 1929

Colour Sequences

Fifty years ago, [1879!] when the bedding-out of tender plants for a Summer display was the general garden practice, if any thought was given to arranging them for colour, it was to produce the crudest and most garish effects; such as a round bed of a vivid scarlet Geranium with a border of blue Lobelia, or a wavy ribbon border of scarlet, blue and yellow.

Now that all that concerns the planning of our gardens is engaging the attention of our best designers, the better use of colour is being carefully considered, and is already being gloriously practised. For when colour is rightly used the various portions of the garden will have the highest pictorial value as living pictures of plant beauty.

Sourced from: A Gardener's Testament, Ed. Francis Jekyll and G C Taylor, Papermac, (Originally Country Life), Suffolk.

USING LESS PLASTIC

If, in 1586, that famous Westcountryman Walter Raleigh had imported the first tobacco plants into England in plastic pots he'd still be able to re-use them today – as long as they were kept out of the sun.

Quite rightly we're being told to re-use black plastic because UK waste management can't recycle it.

But the sun begins to break down the plastic's molecular structure and it cracks on us – the start of a long process which ends in billions of micro-plastic particles entering the food chain.

So we all need a darkroom to store our pots until we next plant them up and put them ...
in a sheltered sunny spot !

For black biodegradable pots check out www.vitaxgrower.co.uk and for seedtrays www.nutscene.com

David Wood

RE-DUCE - RE-USE - RE-CYCLE

Sally Nex, Horticultural journalist, gave an interesting talk at Toby's Garden Festival at Forde Abbey on 16th September on reducing plastic use in the garden.

Emphasising the Re-duce, Re-use, Re-cycle maxim, she explained that black plastic is not currently recycled in this country, so if we already have it, we need to re-use it as much as possible.

Of course, now we are aware of the problem, we should try not to buy any more!

Coloured plastic can be recycled, but not the pots with black linings.

Here at the Trading Post, we are trying to re-use pots and trays as much as possible.

Why not make our own?

There are several examples on the internet of pots for single use made from newspaper - you can then put plant and pot in the ground!

Have you tried sowing seeds in egg trays?

Then just cut them up and plant them without disturbing the roots.

There is a good range of Vitapots in the Trading Post to save you time making your own.

These are made from cardboard and are fully biodegradable, so can be planted with the plant.

In our drive to reduce plastic, we will have *brown paper bags* for sale in the Trading Post, suitable for buying loose fruit and veg in a supermarket.

We are always happy to recycle plastic carrier bags at the till and appreciate donations.

SAND & GRAVEL

We sell sand and gravel in 6 litre plastic bags.

However, if you bring your own bags (or buckets or wheelbarrows !)

we will give you a *10p discount* for each bag saved!

WRHS TRIP TO FORDE ABBEY

Of late, I keep finding myself singing (to myself, fortunately,) *"Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Bangor"*, which is strange because, the last time I was in Bangor, I was visiting the hospital.

Of course, the true reason is that the song came into my head whilst on the coach on the return trip from Forde Abbey with the WRHS.

When my home and recreational advisor of some 40 years suggested the trip, I was not overly enthusiastic but went along with it because we needed to spend more time doing things together.

So off we went in the early hours of Sunday morning, waking a few sparrows on our way to meet the Bluebird coach. Others joined us at various stops in and around Weymouth and off we set. The ride was pleasant and comfortable; coaches have come a long way since school trips in the fifties and sixties.



What we were greeted with at Forde Abbey took me by surprise. There was a ceilidh band playing at the entrance to welcome us, and they later moved to the main arena. Oh; and the sun was out! Stalls were selling everything from plants, to gardening tools and equipment, arts and crafts, out-buildings, antiques, local wines, hats and clothing; who would have imagined that you can make socks from bamboo? Food and drink stalls were in abundance.

Having visited the stalls, we took a stroll around the lovely gardens, which boast the tallest powered fountain in the UK; you don't want to find yourself down wind of it! We even listened to a tree, courtesy of Alex Metcalf's sensitive microphones which pick up the inner rumblings of the xylem at work.

There was an additional fee of £3 to visit the house, but it was well worth it. Talks by various experts were being held in the Great Hall to which all visitors to the event were welcomed and for which entrance was free. Outside the house we met and chatted with John Challis ('Boycie' in *Only Fools and Horses*) and his wife, who were promoting John's books and who also talked in the Great Hall about his life.

All told, this was a super day out and was great value for money.

Congratulations must go to those at WRHS who went to the trouble of organising it.



Martyn Simmons

WRHS RULES

From time to time, the General Committee has to decide how to solve practical problems that have arisen. Decisions that have a long-term application are added to the Rules of the Society. Here is the most recent addition:

RULE 10 - Members' Plant Sales

If a Plant Seller fails to renew their Membership by 30th June, any plants for sale held for them by the Society shall be deemed to be a donation to the Society and any income from those plants will be retained by the Society.

WRHS NEWS OCTOBER 2018

AT THE TRADING POST

Daffodil Double 5 varieties 30p each		Narcissus miniature 5 varieties 20p each		Hyacinth Prepared 5 varieties 50p each		Tulip Double early 5 varieties 20p each	
Tulip Short stemmed 5 varieties 20p each		Bulb Planter Stainless steel £13.78 £6.00		Bulb Bowl 20cm £1.25		Bulb Fibre 3 litres £1.00	Lawn Seed 100g 60p 500g £2.90 1kg £5.75
Broad Bean Aquadulce 100g £1.55 50p		Broad Bean De Monica 100g £1.10		Broad Bean Sutton Dwarf 100g 80p		Pea Meteor 100g 50p	
Pea Douce Provence 50g 30p		Onion Set Senshyu 200g 80p		Onion Set Red Winter 200g 80p		Garlic Solent Wight £1.70 each	
Elephant Garlic Large £1.20		Cauliflower All the year round £1.30 £1.17		Lettuce Winter Density £1.45 £1.31		Spring Onion White Lisbon Winter Hardy £1.20 £1.08	
Fibre Pot 8cm square 12 for £1.95		Fibre Pot 8cm round 12 for £1.95		Bird Feeder £5.75 £3.35		Bird Seed 1kg 85p	
Thermometer max/min £17.25 £10.15		Soil pH meter £8.65 £4.85		Winter Tree Wash 500ml £8.50		Grease Bands Boltac £6.99 £5.35	
Grazing Rye green manure £1.50 £1.35		Bone Meal 1kg £1.55		Blood Fish & Bone 1kg £1.10		Indoor can 0.7 litre £5.49 £4.75	
Storage Tray £5.25 £2.95		Garden Tray 59x59x7cm £9.15 £5.10		Trug Planter Small £2.65 £1.50		Poly Ribbon Various colours 5p / metre	
Incinerator with lid £34.99 £24.35		TubTrugs 5 litre £4.34 £3.35 14 litre £5.26 £4.50 38 litre £9.64 £8.25		Water Butt 210 litre with stand etc £67.99 £36.00		Cleaning Fluid outdoor 1 litre £6.16 £3.85	

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Harvesting

- ▶ Harvest seeds for next year. Make sure the seeds are completely dry before putting into jars or tins, **clearly labelled**.
- ▶ Bring green tomatoes indoors and keep them on the vine in a sunny spot to ripen.
- ▶ Harvest pumpkins and squashes.
Bring your big pumpkins to the Trading Post for the pumpkin competition on Saturday 27th October!
- ▶ Lift main crop potatoes carefully, once the soil has softened a bit after some rain (!) being careful to avoid spearing the tubers. Use damaged ones quickly or they will rot.

Sowing & Planting

- ▶ Once the ground is softened by the autumn rain, consider sowing vacant areas on the vegetable plot with a **green manure**. See the RHS website labelled **Leafy crops for improved soil**, accessed via the **Jobs to do in October** page.
- ▶ In this abnormally dry year, sow **Aqua Dulce broad beans** in cells. Cover with **fleece** or cloches after planting out in November.
- ▶ Get autumn-planted **garlic**, **Elephant garlic**, **onions** and shallots in the ground before the weather turns cold. If planted in warm soils the bulbs should root strongly, giving a good harvest next year.
- ▶ Plant out **spring cabbages** and use **netting** to protect them from pigeons.

Maintenance

- ▶ As night-time temperatures continue to fall, protect salads and Oriental leaves with **fleece**.
- ▶ Remember NOT to add vegetable plants affected by soil pests such as carrot fly or cabbage root fly to the compost heap. Burn them instead and add the ash to the compost, or take them to the "green waste" at the Council tip.
- ▶ Move tender plants into the greenhouse or conservatory.
- ▶ Remove greenhouse shading.

FRUIT TREES & SOFT FRUIT

Harvesting

- ▶ Harvest and store apples and pears

Planting & Taking Cuttings

- ▶ Plant new rhubarb crowns and lift and divide old ones.
Rhubarb benefits from rich soil. Add **farmyard manure** or **compost** when planting.
- ▶ Take cuttings of blueberries, currants and gooseberries.

Maintenance

- ▶ Pick up fallen fruits as they may contain the larva of codling moth or red plum maggot. These will emerge and pupate in the ground to infect the tree next year
- ▶ Apply **grease bands** to fruit trees.
- ▶ Sweep away and burn leaves that show any sign of disease. They could carry fungal disease such as apple or pear scab.
- ▶ Clear old leaves round strawberries to prevent pest build-up, and separate runners if they are well rooted, to make new plants.

IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

- ▶ Lift Dahlia and Begonia tubers.
- ▶ Plant out perennials and biennials sown this year.
- ▶ Divide herbaceous perennials.
- ▶ Prune Climbing Roses
- ▶ You can still mow the lawn and renovate bare areas by laying turf or sowing **grass seed**.
- ▶ Hedges can be trimmed and some shrubs pruned as long as the weather remains mild.
- ▶ Start collecting leaves to make leaf mould.

Note: Items above in **green** currently in stock at the Trading Post.