

# 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

Telephone: 01305 759668  
email: [enquiries@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wrhs.org.uk) or [newsletter@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wrhs.org.uk)  
website: <http://wrhs.org.uk/>

Price  
10p

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

## FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

### SUMMER SHOW

The Summer Show will take place on Saturday 21st July this year.  
Schedules will be available in March.

Many of the usual classes will be there, including growing the heaviest crop of potatoes in a bucket.  
The £2 entry fee includes a standard bucket and a selected 'Estima' seed potato - at the Trading Post now.  
There's plenty of time to think about your handicrafts and choose the varieties of fruit and veg ... so start now!

### CLOSED !!!

The Trading Post will be CLOSED on **Saturday 24th February**.  
The Society regrets this decision, but there are no Duty Managers available that day.  
Duty Managers need to know how to operate the till,  
and must be acquainted with the stock and general procedures such as Fire evacuation.  
If you have time to spare and would like to volunteer to do this, **please get in touch**  
and we will arrange training for you.

### FREE MANURE !

Fancys Farm on Portland always has well-rotted manure available to collect for free.  
If you would like a load, they will be happy to arrange it.  
Their animals are ruminants, not horses, so the seeds are ingested and less likely to germinate.

### MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions become due for renewal on 1st April.  
but **New Members** joining in February or March will have Membership valid until 31st March **2019**. Yes! £5 for 14 months.  
**If you are already a Member, please consider paying your subscription by Standing Order - forms available in the shop.**  
Remember - anyone with more than 12 months continuous Membership is automatically a Stakeholder in the Society.  
Copies of the Constitution are available from the General Secretary.

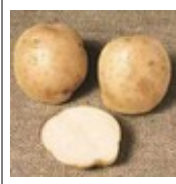


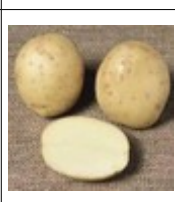


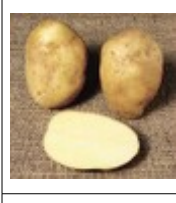
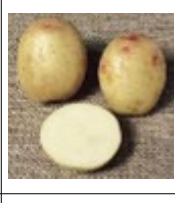

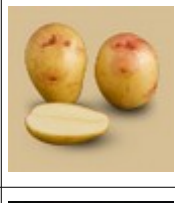


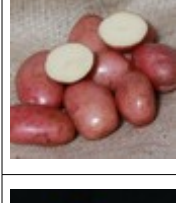

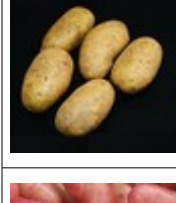


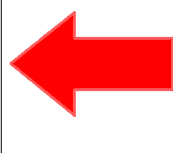
### WANTED !

Do you have a tall brown wheelie bin that you no longer need?  
The Trading Post would like it to store bulk bags of composts.

# SEED POTATOES

**At only £1.40/kg it's no surprise that seed potatoes are selling fast.**

You can buy just one, or a bag full! Lots of Members are trying the new Pink Fir Apple - it looks rather fun!

	<p><b>Pentland Javelin</b> First Early</p> <p>A superb tasting variety which takes a week or two longer than other first earlies to mature. Can be left in the ground longer to produce larger, more floury potatoes.</p>		<p><b>Red Duke of York</b> First Early</p> <p>Red Duke of York is a sport of the Duke of York variety and both looks better and cooks better. The variety was introduced to the UK in 1942. The red skin retains its colour during cooking.</p>
	<p><b>Rocket</b> First Early</p> <p>Probably the earliest of all varieties, but not the tastiest. The flavour can be enhanced by generous use of salt, butter and fresh mint.</p>		<p><b>Estima</b> Second Early</p> <p>A reliable, high yielding variety, with good resistance to , drought, slugs and scab. Perhaps better classified as an early main-crop than a second early.</p>
	<p><b>Kestrel</b> Second Early <b>ALMOST GONE !</b></p> <p>Bred from Solanum vernei x Cara, Kestrel offers good slug resistance, and produces consistently large potatoes of excellent flavour.</p>		<p><b>Marfona</b> Second Early</p> <p>A slightly waxy variety with moderate resistance to blight and scab. Its full flavour makes it good for baking, boiling, or mashing.</p>
	<p><b>Wilja</b> Second Early <b>ALMOST GONE !</b></p> <p>Yields potatoes of consistent size and excellent flavour. Good resistance to everything except eelworm.</p>		<p><b>Cara</b> Main crop <b>ALMOST GONE !</b></p> <p>Good disease resistance to blight, drought, slugs and scab, giving a high yield of fair sized potatoes. Not strongly flavoured.</p>
	<p><b>Desiree</b> Main crop <b>ALMOST GONE !</b></p> <p>A versatile variety bred from Urgenta x Depesche. Good baked, roasted, boiled, mashed, or chipped. Can be treated as an early main crop if desired.</p>		<p><b>King Edward</b> Main crop</p> <p>Introduced in 1902, and still widely grown for its excellent taste, good keeping properties and above average disease resistance.</p>
	<p><b>Maris Piper</b> Main crop <b>ALMOST GONE !</b></p> <p>Gives high yields of medium sized tubers, which keep very well. Excellent for baking, frying and boiling.</p>		<p><b>Picasso</b> Main crop</p> <p>A modern, disease resistant variety, with a mild flavour and good firm texture, suitable for a wide range of uses.</p>
	<p><b>Sarlo Mira</b> Main crop</p> <p>Good resistance to wireworms, slugs, viruses, and drought. Gives good yields of red-skinned, floury tubers, ideal for mash, chips and roasting.</p>		<p><b>Charlotte</b> Salad variety <b>ALMOST GONE !</b></p> <p>Excellent flavour and boil without falling apart. Average resistance to blight and unlikely to be affected by scab or slugs.</p>
	<p><b>International Kidney</b> Salad variety</p> <p>Known as Jersey Royals when grown on Jersey. Excellent, distinctive flavour when picked early and boiled with the very thin skin left on.</p>		<p><b>Nicola</b> Salad variety</p> <p>Excellent flavour, served hot or cold. Reasonably good disease resistance overall, but susceptible to blight.</p>
	<p><b>Pink Fir Apple</b> Salad variety</p> <p>Long, knobbly shaped variety, so scrub with a brush before cooking, and eat with the skins on. Expose harvested crop to the sun for a couple of days and they will store for two or three months.</p>	 <p><b>NEW TO WRHS THIS YEAR !</b></p>	

## A RECIPE FOR FEBRUARY

### Winter Salad

This salad is excellent with cheese, especially a nice creamy goat's cheese or a ripe Camembert.

#### Ingredients

##### For the salad

- 1 head of chicory
- 80g raw fennel
- 3 sticks celery
- 35g walnuts

##### For the dressing

- 3 tablespoons walnut oil
- ½ tablespoon red wine vinegar
- ½ teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- Salt & fresh ground black pepper

Serves 4

Contributed by The Kitchen Gardener



















#### Method

1. Cut chicory in half lengthways, then slice
2. Slice the fennel and cut into strips
3. Slice the celery
4. Break the walnuts into large pieces
5. Mix these items in a salad bowl
6. Mix the dressing ingredients in a jug
7. Toss the salad in the dressing
8. Enjoy!

## FRESH STOCK TO SOW THIS YEAR

A small selection of the stock that has arrived recently.

Dwarf French Bean Tendergreen 50g 50p		Dwarf French Bean Purple Teepee 50g 90p		Dwarf French Bean Sprite 50g 60p		Dwarf French Bean Masterpiece 50g 65p	
Climbing French Bean Blue Lake 50g 65p		Climbing French Bean Cosse Violette 50g 90p		Climbing French Bean Cobra 50g £2.20		Broad Bean De Monica 100g £1.15	
Broad Bean Sutton Dwarf 100g 80p		Broad Bean Masterpiece Green Longshaft 100g 80p		Broad Bean Crimson Flowered 100g 70p		Runner Bean Moonlight 50g £1.45	
Onion Set Stuton Globe 200g 80p		Onion Set Red Karmen 200g 80p		Onion Set Stuttgart 200g 80p		Shallot Red Sun 200g £2.00	

## WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

- Chit potato tubers - buy your seed potatoes from the Trading Post before they sell out !
- Prepare vegetable seed beds. Some vegetables can be sown under cover
- Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off. Plenty of anti-bird netting at the T.P.
- Make a shelter over early flowering rockery bulbs to protect from rain and snow.
- Divide clumps of snowdrops. Plant bulbs that need planting 'in the green'
- Prune Wisteria, bougainvillea, Group 3 Clematis, hardy evergreen hedges and overgrown deciduous hedges.
- Plant some winter flowering bedding to feed early-awakening insects.
- Put up nest boxes for birds before the breeding season starts.



## BITS & BOBS

BITS & BOBS, the Arts and Crafts Shop in Portland Road offers a 10% discount to all WRHS Members. Just show your WRHS Membership card.

## PLANT HEALTH

Most of the plants for sale at the Trading Post are sourced locally - they are propagated and grown in Britain.

By doing this, we are helping to limit the spread of diseases that have been imported from other countries.

This country has a huge horticultural industry supplied by British nurseries and as gardeners, we must support them.

A lot of the plants for sale elsewhere have been produced in countries where labour is cheap and the weather is warm.

That's fine for mass produced bedding plants - they are grown in almost sterile conditions and flown directly to the distributors in Holland. **But do we want to add air-miles and pollution to our gardens?** Shrubs and herbaceous plants are grown widely in Britain from seeds and cuttings, so we do not need them to be flown across the world.

Sadly, some diseases such as Fuchsia Gall mite are already here, so be careful not to take cuttings from affected plants.

If you have a Fuchsia bush affected by the disease, cut it down to the ground and **burn all the clippings**.

If you are lucky, it will grow again (without the mites).

This year, the Society volunteers will be gathering cuttings from various local plants to grow on for sale in the Trading Post. If they grow locally, they'll grow in your garden too! If you have an interesting plant in your garden and would be willing to share it, please discuss collecting a few cuttings with a member of the Horticultural Team.

## HEDGEHOGS

**Most of the hedgehogs left in Britain are now 'urban' dwellers, relying on gardens for survival.**

**Their numbers have diminished dramatically in recent years and are 'at risk'.**

The Dorset Mammal Group and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society support local hedgehog groups.



### What can we do to help?

Please make sure that you have small gaps in the fence round your garden.

A 13cm diameter hole is enough to link your garden to next door's.

If we all do that, we can create corridors for the hedgehogs to travel along, eating our slugs and snails as they go.

If you find a hedgehog asleep, do not disturb it... it takes four hours for a hibernating hedgehog to come round and a lot longer to go back to sleep.



They are nocturnal, so if you see one about in daylight, it needs help. Call your local group for advice: email [hedgehogs@dorsetmammalgroup.org.uk](mailto:hedgehogs@dorsetmammalgroup.org.uk)

Please **DO NOT** put out milk for them - they are lactose intolerant. Instead, tinned dog or cat food are safe.

The Pet Shop in Easton Square, Portland, sells a special seed mix, too.

## GROWING PAINS !

**Grandfathers, Chuccywigs, Hardbacks, Belly Buttons, Slaters - call them what you will, woodlice completely destroyed a crop of Bolthardy Beetroot on Plot 49 last year.**



Adjacent plots didn't seem to be attacked.

Was this an isolated case, or have you had problems too ?

Are some beetroot varieties more susceptible than others ?

What control methods have you tried, and how effective were they ?

Please let us know.

