

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 or newsletter@wrhs.org.uk
website: <http://wrhs.org.uk/>

Price
10p

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

JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

WANTED ! YARD MANAGER

Can you lift a bag of compost?

Could you spare a Wednesday afternoon from time to time?

We need a Yard Manager from 2pm - 4pm.

The duties involve issuing barcode order slips to take to the till, then helping Members to load the bags of compost into their cars. We have trolleys.

We would like to have a rota, so that you would only be required once a month.

For more information, come in and talk to the Yard Manager on duty to see what it involves.

For many years, Herbie Pover was the Yard Manager, rarely missing a day. The Society would like to thank Herbie very sincerely for all his hard work and dedication.

WRHS SUMMER SHOW SATURDAY 21ST JULY

Volunteers are required

to run the Trading Post all day, especially the café.

Can you help to put out the tables and bunting on Friday 20th July from 3pm?

We will also require help to take it all down again at 4pm on Saturday 21st.

Please put your name down.

Show Schedules are available in the Trading Post or on-line at www.wrhs.org under "Events"
You may need to download the free **Mozilla Firefox** web browser to open the web page.

The Show is Open to non-Members, too.

Food will be served all day, so donations of cakes, quiches, etc, will be much appreciated.

Following the Prize-giving at 3pm, there will be the draw for the Raffle.

Donations of prizes would be appreciated.

Tickets are on sale now.

Did you win a cup last year?



Please bring it back in time for the Show,
preferably cleaned !

Following the Show at 3pm, the Society will dedicate the raised bed in the front yard of the Trading Post to Roger Russell in recognition and appreciation of the many years' service he has given to the Society.

Roger has kindly written a fascinating description of his time with the Society – see page 2.

We wish him a long and happy retirement.

ROGER RUSSELL

Roger Russell joined Wyke Regis Horticultural Society in 1973. He was a Radio Electrical Artificer in the Fleet Air Arm and had been drafted to HMS Osprey in 1972 moving to live at Southill where he had his first garden to maintain.

Roger's father had been a professional gardener as had his Grandfather and Great grandfather, so even though this was his first garden you could argue that there had to be a little bit of 'green' in the genes.

Roger entered and won the most points in the 'Novice' section at the 1974 Summer Show and started to put up entries in following shows, whereupon Arthur Sheppard enticed him to join the Show Committee in 1976.

Yes ! There was a Show Committee as well as a General Committee in those days.

It met once a month and had its own Chairman and Secretary.

You might wonder why they met once a month but it is obvious when you realise there was a **Spring Show**, a **Rose and Sweet Pea Show**, a **Summer Show** [averaging around 600 entries] and a **Dahlia and Chrysanthemum Show**.

Around Christmas time a dinner dance was held in the Pavilion to round things off for the year.

Around 1980, Roger became Show Secretary and was also hooked on growing Sweetpeas.

There was some good rivalry with Phil Eady, Peter Birch, and Brian Copp, amongst others at the Rose and Sweet Pea Shows. Roger, Phil, and Peter showed regularly at the National Sweet Pea Society Shows around the country, even travelling to Grange-over-Sands with their sweet peas to show, and returning with a huge shield, having entered together to represent Wyke Regis Horticultural Society.

By now Roger was part of the General Committee, and after about 6 years organising the shows then became Social Secretary, planning the winter speakers and events. This also included an annual coach trip, which soon became at least three coach trips per summer season to places such as the Henry Doubleday HQ in Hertfordshire, Tram rides and Orchids in Devon, and a weekend in Torbay to visit the recently opened Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan. After about 5 years, Roger decided to ease gently into just attending the General Committee hoping to help over some difficult times for the Society, being proudly made a life member and finally retiring in 2015.

WATERING

During the heatwave and drought, gardeners have a duty to use water sparingly. Be careful to water only the soil or compost round the roots, soaking it well 2 or 3 times a week - water splashed on leaves can cause scorching.

A good soak is far better than a quick spray.

If possible, watering should be done in the evenings, to enable the plants to draw the moisture before the sun dries it out.

Adding a mulch of 2-3 inches of compost or bark (after watering) will help to conserve the moisture.

There is no point in watering lawns. They may turn brown, but will quickly recover when the rain returns, and in the meantime you will not have to mow them!

Evergreen shrubs and trees may shed leaves in drought conditions - this is their way of conserving moisture. The leaves turn brown round the edges at first to reduce the surface area, but if the drought persists, whole leaves will be discarded. The plants will recover once the weather changes.

Shrubs such as Camellia and Rhododendron set the buds for next year's flowers in July/August, so give them a good soak round the roots once a week.

BEEES

There has been a dramatic decline in populations of bees of all kinds in recent years and for the past two months there has been a National Bee Count. We need to continue to protect bees in our gardens, being mindful of the plants we choose to benefit them. There is lots of useful information on www.friendsoftheearth.uk including identification.

More ideas on how we can help are also available on www.bumblebeeconservation.org

COMPOST

My word ! This compost is proving popular!

We have just received yet another delivery, and are grateful to Rocky, Kim, Richard, and Carrie, who shifted all the heavy pallets from the lorry into the storage bays.

DURSTON'S PRODUCTS IN STOCK

60 litre Multipurpose Compost	£3.40
40 litre Peat Free Compost	£3.30
40 litre Farmyard Manure	£2.70
40 litre Ericaceous Compost	£2.70
100 litre Bark - large chip	£7.20
Growbag	£1.55

If you buy Growbags, note that they get highly compressed during packaging, so remember to loosen the contents well **before** you cut holes in the plastic for your plants.

CALENDAR COMPETITION

The Photographic Competition for entries for the 2019 calendar are due in by mid September...keep clicking!
Photographs representing all seasons are needed, so now is the time to take a few for Summer.

Details are available in the Trading Post, or on-line at www.wrhs.org under "Events"

FORDE ABBEY



*WRHS Coach Trip
to
Forde Abbey
Sunday
16th September 2018*

The Society is organising a coach to Toby's Garden and Harvest Festival and tickets will be on sale soon. Please put the date in your diary.

The event includes access to the beautiful gardens of Forde Abbey, plus Harvest Themed Demos and Garden talks.

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

SOWING & PLANTING

- ▶ Sow salad crops in succession to avoid gluts.
- ▶ Sow carrot seed, but protect against carrot fly with fleece when thinning, or when transplanting if using plugs.
- ▶ Sow chicory, fennel, turnips, spring cabbage, parsley and pak choi.
- ▶ This is the latest you can sow French beans or runner beans.
- ▶ You can still plant out brassicas for winter supplies.

MAINTENANCE

- ▶ **Keep watering** in dry spells. The beans and peas need a constant supply. Mulching will help to conserve moisture. Salad crops are prone to bolt if they dry out. Tomato fruits will split and rot if the plants get too dry. Be sure to water the **soil**, not the **plant** so as not to scorch the leaves. Celery and celeriac are particularly prone to scorching.
- ▶ Watch out for aphids. You can reduce numbers by spraying with a hose.
- ▶ Feed tomatoes regularly. Keep taking off the side shoots. Support all tall plants if your garden is exposed to winds.
- ▶ Lift and dry autumn sown onions as well as shallots and garlic.
- ▶ Start earthing up non self blanching celery using a protective collar round the stems to keep earth out of the centres

HARVESTING

- ▶ Harvest broad beans, peas, runner beans and salad crops now.
- ▶ Try to get them young to keep the plants producing. This is especially true for courgettes, so that you don't get marrows!

FRUIT

- ▶ Thin out the fruits on apple and pear trees to encourage good sized crops, and help to prevent brown rot.
- ▶ Harvest peaches, apricots and nectarines.
- ▶ Check gooseberry bushes for the larva of gooseberry saw fly. Wash off or hand pick the tiny green larva or they can strip a bush almost overnight.
- ▶ Pruning cherries plum and apricots in July or August can reduce the risk of the trees getting silver leaf disease.
- ▶ Fruit bushes in containers should be fed with a potash rich fertiliser.

IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

SOWING & PLANTING

- ▶ Biennial and perennial herbaceous seeds, including winter flowering pansies, can still be sown.
- ▶ Thin out or prick out seedlings sown last month.
- ▶ Plant late flowering bulbs in well prepared soil.







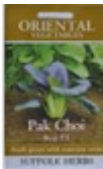

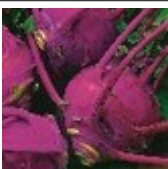







MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Start collecting seed for your own use. Dead-head flowers you don't want for seed, to ensure a continuous display.
- ▶ Remove flower spikes from delphiniums and lupins to encourage a second flowering. Leave the leaves to feed the plant.
- ▶ Plants that flower on bare stems, e.g. Kniphofia (Red Hot Poker) & Agapanthus (African Lily), cut right back to the base.
- ▶ Keep watering. Silver-leaved plants need less water - fleshy plants such as Dahlias need more.
- ▶ Newly planted frees and shrubs take time to establish a root system, and are vulnerable in dry weather – keep watering !
- ▶ Keep feeding, especially plants in containers and hanging baskets, which should have liquid feed at least once a week.
- ▶ Lift tulip and hyacinth bulbs and store in a single layer in a cool, dry, airy place, until planting time in the autumn.
- ▶ Detach any small bulbs produced by the main bulb, ready to grow on to flowering size in a nursery bed .
- ▶ Prune June flowering shrubs (Philadelphus, Weigela, Lilac) once flowers have died.
- ▶ Give Wisteria its second pruning of the year to make sure it flowers next year.
- ▶ Tie in the new growth of climbing and rambling roses and clematis as it develops.

















GENERAL INFORMATION

The internet is a great source of advice, but remember to add "UK" to your search field.
Gardening advice for Australia and USA is interesting but probably inappropriate !

SEEDS TO SOW NOW

<p>Lettuce Salad Bowl</p> <p>£1.25 £1.13</p> 	<p>Lettuce Little Gem Cos</p> <p>£1.05 £0.95</p> 	<p>Salad Leaf Oriental Leaves</p> <p>£1.45 £1.31</p> 	<p>Salad Leaf Rocket, Astra</p> <p>£1.50 £1.35</p> 
<p>Beet Leaf Perpetual Spinach</p> <p>£1.25 £1.13</p> 	<p>Spinach Giant Winter</p> <p>£1.25 £1.13</p> 	<p>Pak Choi Red Choi F1</p> <p>£1.50 £1.35</p> 	<p>Pak Choi Joi Choi F1</p> <p>£1.50 £1.35</p> 
<p>Kohl Rabi Purple Delicacy</p> <p>£1.35 £1.22</p> 	<p>Cabbage Spring Hero</p> <p>£2.75 £2.48</p> 	<p>Cabbage Winter Green</p> <p>£1.90 £1.71</p> 	<p>Carrot Mixed</p> <p>£2.35 £2.12</p> 
<p>Pea Shoots Serge Salad Leaf</p> <p>£1.40 £1.26</p> 	<p>Radish Mixed</p> <p>£1.25 £1.13</p> 	<p>Radicchio (Chicory) Palla Rossa</p> <p>£1.30 £1.17</p> 	<p>Green Manure Summer Mix</p> <p>£1.50 £1.35p</p> 

AT THE TRADING POST

<p>Container & Basket Feed 1 litre</p> <p>£4.16 £2.70</p> 	<p>Pour & Feed 1 litre</p> <p>£2.26 £1.45</p> 	<p>Maxicrop Fertiliser</p> <p>£10.99 £8.45</p> 	<p>Tomato Feed 2.5 litre</p> <p>£8.29 £5.35</p> 
<p>Ant Killer Spray 1 litre</p> <p>£6.59 £2.50</p> 	<p>Ant Killer Powder 300g</p> <p>£5.99 £3.95</p> 	<p>Path & Patio Weedkiller 750ml</p> <p>£6.77 £4.25</p> 	<p>Wasp Nest Destroyer</p> <p>£5.99 £3.70</p> 
<p>S & J Pump Spray 5 litre</p> <p>£13.29 £8.10</p> 	<p>Greenwash 10 litre Watering Can</p> <p>£6.37 £5.45</p> 	<p>Haws Indoor Can 0.7 litre</p> <p>£5.49 £4.75</p> 	<p>Soaker Hose</p> <p>£1.05 / metre</p> 
<p>Collander Trug</p> <p>£10.50 £5.85</p> 	<p>Bird Feeder</p> <p>£5.75 £3.35</p> 		
<p>Jute Twine Natural 500g</p> <p>£4.99 £2.80</p> 	<p>LOTS OF COLOURFUL PLANTS AT EXCELLENT PRICES IN THE FRONT YARD</p>		

PLASTIC POLLUTION



My potting shed is littered with plastic pots now I've planted up my seedlings. Now that I can't in all conscience throw them out, I'm washing and re-using them, rather than clog the planet with new ones. Underneath each one is a triangle with a number inside it. I'm relieved to see most have no. 5 on. This is polypropylene which can be recycled - made into plastic water butts for example. But the ones with 3 in the triangle will - in time - leach toxins into your garden. And those no.1 PET lemonade bottles I've turned upside down in the soil for steadily watering my lettuces? They're coming out since PET toxins leach out into the soil more readily than any other plastic, poisoning my salad. When I buy plants in plastic from the Trading Post from now on I'll check the number in the triangle underneath.

David Wood

HEDGEHOGS



Hedgehogs live solitary lives, only coming together to mate. The main breeding season is May/June, with young born from mid-June on into the Autumn. Courting is a noisy and lengthy affair, the female snorting as the male circles her, sometimes for hours on end. Both males and females may mate with several different partners, so a litter of hoglets may not all have the same father. A month after successful mating, 4 - 7 blind hoglets (or urchins) are born, and stay in the nest reliant on their mother's milk for about 4 weeks before venturing out in convoy with her on foraging expeditions. At 6-7 weeks and weighing about 200 grams, they disperse to live independently.

Nursery nests are usually built in a quiet corner— under a bush, against a wall, beneath a shed, among broad leaved plants e.g. Kniphofia, crocosmia. If you find a nest, disturb it as little as possible and do not touch the young, instead cover them up and watch to see if the mother returns. Hoglets should only be 'rescued' if you are sure their mother is dead or has abandoned them. Nursing females often take a break in the day to forage, but unlike sick or injured hogs, they will be active and purposeful, and should be left alone.

Jo Morland

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

WORK PARTY

Thursday 12th July from 9.30am

The Trading Post needs a good clean - can you help?

Please come and join in - there are shelves to dust, floors and windows to clean and yards to tidy and sweep.

Coffee and cake are provided.

For more information, contact Carrie on generalsecretary@wrhs.org.uk