

# WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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

Founded 1925  
Affiliated to the RHS & DFHS  
President Mr Colin Giles

Price  
10p

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

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

## NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### Longleat Festival of Light 4th December 2016

Prices including coach and entrance

Adult £38.50 Senior £33.45 Child £32.45

Coach pick-up points will be:

St Edmund's Church, Wyke Smugglers Hotel,  
St Nicholas Church, The Law Courts,  
Dorchester Road, & Spa Hotel

Have you any photographs of this spectacular event  
from previous visits?

We would like to display some on the WRHS website.

Please email to [webmaster@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@wrhs.org.uk)



The last Trading Day for 2016

will be

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Mince Pies, Sausage Rolls, Tea & Coffee  
will be free to Members.

**Grand Christmas Draw at 11:30am**

£1 Draw Tickets will be on sale at the  
Trading Post from Wednesday 2nd November

If you would like to donate a draw prize,  
please speak to the Duty Manager at the Trading Post  
or email [trading\\_team@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:trading_team@wrhs.org.uk)

#### Richard Williamson's Christmas Wreath Workshop

Wednesday 14th December 2016

10:00 to about 13:00

**Only £5.00**

Frame, wire, moss  
& some greenery  
are included in the  
price

Bring your own  
choice of decorations



**Limited places**  
Always very popular  
so book quickly  
to avoid  
disappointment

**Only 1 place  
left !**

#### Quiz Night with Buffet Supper

Organised by Cliff Elliott

**Friday 27th January 2017**

Starts at 7:30pm prompt !

Questions on gardening and many other subjects

The competition will be between teams of up to 6 members  
A small prize will be awarded to the winning team

**£5.00** including buffet - bring your own drinks

**Tickets are on sale now at the Trading Post**  
**Places are limited to 30**

**WRHS Quiz Nights are always popular**  
**so get your tickets quickly**

#### Do you grow Lavender ?



Someone recently kindly donated  
a quantity of fragrant lavender seed  
gathered from their garden.

This is ideal for making lavender bags  
and is on sale at the Trading Post.

If you grow lavender  
and have some to spare,  
it would be much appreciated.



## A RECIPE FOR NOVEMBER

### Sausage and Bean Winter Soup

Ideal for a cold winter day - Serves 4

Contributed by The Kitchen Gardener

This is more of a stew than a soup and is ideal for a cold winter's day. It is a traditional French recipe, but obviously can be varied according to your likes and dislikes or what you happen to have in the fridge!

\*\*\* This recipe is traditionally made with Toulouse sausages, but if they are not available, any tasty pork sausages will be fine.

#### Ingredients:

2 tablespoons olive oil  
100g lardons or cubed thick cut bacon  
8 sausages \*\*\* See note above  
1 large onion, diced  
2 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed  
2 carrots, diced  
2 sticks of celery, diced  
1 litre chicken stock  
1 bay leaf  
Sea salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
Fresh parsley, preferably flat leaf, chopped  
200g dried white haricot beans or 2 cans of haricot or cannellini beans



#### Important Note:

If using dried beans, **soak overnight** and simmer for 1 hour before using.

#### Method:

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan; brown the sausages on all sides; fry the lardons.
2. Add the onion, garlic, carrot and celery and sauté gently for 5 minutes.
3. Pour in the stock, add the bay leaf and seasoning and stir.
4. Add the sausages and simmer for 25 minutes with the lid on, or put in a covered casserole to simmer slowly in a low oven.
5. Add the drained beans and cook for a further 10 minutes.
6. Remove the sausages and cut into pieces, return them to the pan, serve hot.

## WRHS OPEN DAY

**The Open Day held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October was a remarkable success !**

Indeed it was far better attended than any of us could have anticipated.

Thirteen new Members were signed up, and a further three folk who had allowed their membership to lapse rejoined the Society.

Although the café area had been extended for the occasion, it was still filled to capacity. Prodigious quantities of cake, coffee and tea were consumed, and very excellent cake it was too! A "short" talk about practical composting techniques attracted so much interest, and so many questions, that it lasted far longer than planned.

The new Members were clearly impressed by the prices at WRHS, for our sales figures were the best this year, despite it being so late in the season.

**We plan to hold another Open Day next spring.**



## VOLUNTEERS

**The Society depends upon volunteers for its operation and its continued existence**

### Non-Trading Hours Volunteers

#### VOLUNTEER NOW !

*But I'm at work on Wednesdays,  
and on Saturdays I spend time with my children !*

That's why we have a new volunteer scheme not restricted to trading hours. Lots of jobs are actually easier if done out of trading hours - like restocking the display stands in the shop, and rebagging seeds and fertilisers.

**Let us know when you might be able to help  
It doesn't have to be every week**

Please email [general\\_secretary@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:general_secretary@wrhs.org.uk)



### Trading Hours Volunteers

Several new Members who joined recently immediately became volunteers, and are already doing sterling work, for which we are most grateful.

We still need more volunteers for general duties, like serving refreshments, tidying plants, potting up plants. Could you spare an hour or so on an occasional Saturday morning or Wednesday afternoon?

You don't need to be an expert in horticulture - there are knowledgeable folk here who will be happy to teach you basic horticultural skills. It's pleasant work, and you get to meet some very nice fellow gardeners too.

Maybe you have non-horticultural practical skills. If so, there are plenty of vital tasks to be done.

An ambitious development project is taking shape, which will involve construction work, installing shop fittings, painting etc. A lot of refitting work needs to be done during the winter shut-down, from 10<sup>th</sup> December to 14<sup>th</sup> January – can you help at all ?

There are plenty of possibilities for enthusiastic volunteers !

Please email [general\\_secretary@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:general_secretary@wrhs.org.uk) if you think you might be able to help.



## MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT DRIVE





















The continuing drive to recruit new WRHS Members is going well - let's keep up the good work.  
Why not buy a subscription for a friend? It costs only £2.50 at present !  
A4 recruitment posters are available from the Trading Post, or click on the image to download one from the website and print your own to give to friends and neighbours.

**Are you a gardener?**  
Join the WRHS today!  
Special Offer - membership that gives you all the benefits of a subscription for a special price of just £2.50 per year!  
The Trading Post is a fantastic place to buy all the gardening supplies you need, including plants, seeds and tools. We stock it all and more!  
Friendly member staff will help and advise you every step of the way.  
Contact us today!  
Tel: 01203 616161  
www.wrhs.org.uk

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Until 31st December 2016  
new members can join for **just £2.50 !**

## BULBS TO PLANT NOW

### NEW SEASON'S BULBS FOR INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PLANTINGS

Amaryllis Apple Blossom £3.80 each		Amaryllis Pink £3.80 each		Amaryllis Red £3.80 each		Amaryllis Salmon £3.80 each	
Hyacinth for indoor bowl 4 varieties 48p each		Hyacinth for outdoor planting 4 varieties 48p each		Allium Purple Sensation 25p each		Iris Miniature Mixed 15p each	
Crocus Species Mixed 6p each		Snow Crocus Mixed 11p each		Ixia 5p each		Allium Moly Yellow 5p each	
Brodiaea 5p each		Chionodoxa Glory-of-the-Snow 5p each		Anemone St Brigid 5p each		Large Daffodils Yellow 10p each	
Darwin Tulip Apeldoorn Elite 18p each		Darwin Tulip Golden Apeldoorn 18p each		Darwin Tulip Oluoules 18p each		Darwin Tulip Parade 18p each	

**Now is the best time to plant shrubs, fruit bushes, & fruit canes** because the soil is still warm enough to encourage healthy root growth, ready to burst into life next Spring. Adding mycorrhizal fungi when planting makes the root system about 100 times more effective - choose the version with fertiliser for shrubs, fruit bushes, or fruit canes.







Using mycorrhizal fungi makes an **amazing** difference, and is **very well worth** the small extra cost !

There are some interesting and healthy small shrubs to choose from on the staging in front of the Trading Post. We have too many varieties to list here, but stocks of each variety are limited, so it's "first come - first served".



£1.20 for 60g

## NEW STOCK LINES

Spear & Jackson 5 litre pump sprayer <del>£13.24</del> £7.50		Spear & Jackson Extendible Sprayer Wand <del>£4.05</del> £3.00		210L Water Butt, lid, tap, plinth & filter <del>£37.00</del> £35.00		100L Slim Water Butt, lid, tap, plinth & filter <del>£30.00</del> £22.00	
Master Gardner Gloves Small <del>£5.99</del> £4.50		Grow Tubes Biodegradable Ideal for raising Sweet Peas £3.30 / pack of 20		WRHS Fresh Lavender <del>£1.00 for 25g</del> 75p for 25g		WRHS Bulb Fibre Ready mixed with all essential ingredients £1.00 for 3 litres	

## WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

- Clear fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds. Net ponds to catch the leaves before they fall in !
  - Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year. It's not too late to plant daffodils and hyacinths here in the south.
  - Cover brassicas with netting to avoid pigeon damage. The Trading Post has stocks of good pigeon netting.
  - Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubblewrap works well – the TP has large and small bubble material.
  - Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease or grease bands around the trunks – both are in stock at the TP.
  - Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden. Mixed seeds, peanuts and fat-balls are available at the TP.
  - Prune roses to prevent wind-rock.
  - Plant out winter bedding.
  - Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging.
  - Burn diseased prunings, and debris unfit for composting, but use an incinerator rather than a bonfire.
  - There are too few hedgehogs left to risk cooking any of them – help them survive to eat slugs and snails.
- Remember to keep notes of what varieties you plant, and when, and how well (or badly !) they fare.  
Take a few photos to go with your notes. If we all pool our experiences, we can all help each other.  
Local knowledge is worth more than all the generalisations you can get from gardening books!



£16.00

**Remember to pick up your free copy of the November edition of Country Gardener from the Trading Post**

## STOCKS AT WRHS

It's amazing what myths some folk believe and propagate, isn't it !

Recently, a Trading Post volunteer asked another WRHS Member (who shall remain anonymous) why he bought his seeds elsewhere when he could buy what he needed much more cheaply at the Trading Post. "Ah, but your stock is always stale" came the reply.

### OH NO IT ISN'T !

All the packeted seeds are date stamped, and we send date-expired stock back to Kings Seeds, on a sale-or-return basis, the same as any other retail outlet. The seeds that we buy in bulk and re-bag, such as peas and beans, are now all labelled with full details, growing instructions, batch number, expiry date, and a coloured picture. Any date-expired re-bagged stock left over at the end of the season cannot be returned to Kings Seeds, of course, but is suitably disposed of. A small girl who recently came into the Trading Post to enquire about seeds for her school project, went home triumphant with a large bag of bean seeds which we had given her.

The closure of Value House will be an inconvenience to many local gardeners, and WRHS aims to stock the products that Members require, always at competitive prices, by buying in bulk and passing the savings on to Members. To this end, several members of the General Committee attended a trade show last month, and came back with some great ideas for new products to stock.

The EPOS system shows that WRHS Plants are among our most popular lines, and in 2017 we plan to increase the range of plants on offer, and will try to stock some of the more interesting and unusual varieties that are generally unavailable at Garden Centres.

## MODERNISATION

Following negotiation with our main seed supplier, Kings Seeds Ltd., we have acquired new display stands, equipped with the modern "Euro-slot" hooks, which display the packets far better and make them easier to view. Kings have recently redesigned their seed packets, and have agreed to take back all our remaining in-date stock and replace it with new stock in the new style of packaging.

A second set of adjustable "slat board" displays is being installed at the end of the shop adjacent to the set already fitted. A display lighting technician has made a site visit to advise on new shop lighting. We plan to install modern track lighting in place of the old, inadequate fluorescent strip-lights, as soon as possible.

WRHS already holds a remarkable range of products - but at present, finding what you're looking for is another matter ! The overall plan is to make use of wall-mounted "slat board" displays where possible, and to replace the central tables with tiered "gondola" display stands, which taper inwards towards the top, making it far easier to see what's on display. Moreover, the gondolas can readily be wheeled out of the main shop area in order to make extra space for social functions, which should be a great advantage.

The refitting work is bound to cause temporary disruption in the shop area, but the end result should make it all worth while. While the work is in progress, stock that is less likely to be in demand at this time of year has been moved from the shop into storage areas, and other items that are still in the shop have had to be moved from their previous locations.

If you can't see what you need, just ask - there's usually someone working in the office who will be pleased to assist you.

The Trading Post will close at 12:30pm on **Saturday 10th December**, and will re-open at 9:30am on **Saturday 14th January 2017**.

Major improvement work is urgently required in the office area, which also serves as a stock-room and a re-bagging facility. It would be impractical to undertake this work while the Trading Post is open, so we plan to do some intensive work during the winter shut-down period.

**ANY HELP THAT YOU CAN GIVE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED**