

# WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Founded 1925

Affiliated to the RHS & Dorset Federation of Horticultural Societies

President Mr Colin Giles

HQ & TRADING POST  
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OPENING TIMES  
WEDNESDAY 2 – 4PM  
SATURDAY 9.30AM – 12.30PM

## APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER



### SALES DESK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Trading Post depends upon the Trading Team, who are working flat out, buying in new stock and working on the new computerised stock control system, but it also depends on other volunteers.

**We could do with a few more volunteers on the sales desk and in the café - the work is light, but important.**

The more of us who are on the rota, the less often we have to be on duty.

If you are willing to help, please speak to Andrea Inns or Paul Hare, or email [wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk](mailto:wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk)

### BAKING FOR THE PLANT SWAP DAY

We are grateful to the one member who has volunteered to bake cakes to serve at the Plant Swap Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, but it would be good if others would share the task.

If you can make some cakes or scones for this event, please speak to Jackie Rockett, or email [wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk](mailto:wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk)

### EVENING TALKS ORGANISER NEEDED

We are still looking for a volunteer to organise some evening talks for members.

This means **ORGANISE** - you don't need to give any of the talks, or even introduce the speakers, unless you wish to. Topics would naturally include gardening and horticulture, but could include subjects of general interest.

Please email [wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk](mailto:wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk) or leave a message at the Trading Post if you can help.

### PUBLICITY OFFICER NEEDED

We need a **Publicity Officer** or a **Publicity Team** to liaise with local papers, distribute posters etc.

Please email [wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk](mailto:wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk) or leave a message at the Trading Post if you can help.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Your £5 annual membership fee was due on 1st April**

Pick up your free copy of the April edition of Country Gardener from the Trading Post

## TRADING POST

<b><u>SEED POTATOES</u></b>	Salad	Nicola, <b>International Kidney (almost gone), Charlotte (sold out)</b>				All at £1.25 / kg			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Early	Rocket, <b>Pentland Javelin (sold out)</b>							
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Early	Kestrel, <b>Wilja, Marfona (almost gone)</b>							
	Main	Desiree, King Edward, Maris Piper, <b>Cara, Picasso (almost gone)</b>							
	Main	Sarpo Mira (blight resistant)				£1.40 / kg			
<b><u>ONION SETS</u></b>	Stuttgart, Sturon, Red Karmen					200g	80p		
<b><u>SHALLOTS</u></b>	Golden Gourmet, <b>Red Sun (almost gone)</b>					500g	£2.00	800g	£3.00
<b><u>PEAS</u></b>	Meteor					100g	50p		
	Douce Provence					100g	60p		
	Sugar Snap, Kelvedon Wonder,					100g	70p		
	Early Onward, Onward					100g	80p		
	Waverex					100g	£1.20		
<b><u>BROAD BEANS</u></b>	Bunyard's Exhibition, Giant Exhibition, Witkiem Manita, Masterpiece Green Longpod					100g	60p		
	Sutton Dwarf					100g	70p		
	Karmazyn					100g	90p		
<b><u>FRENCH BEANS</u></b>	Sprite	Dwarf variety, long straight pods			100g	84p			
	Canadian Wonder	Dwarf variety, crops heavily			100g	85p			
	Safari	Dwarf variety, late maturing, disease resistant			50g	95p			
	Tendergreen	Dwarf variety, stringless			50g	50p	100g	95p	
	Cobra	Climbing variety, good shelf life			50g	£2.00			
	Hunter	Climbing variety, early or maincrop			50g	£1.60	100g	£2.25	
	Cosse Violette	Climbing variety, purple pods, good flavour			100g	£1.10			
<b><u>RUNNER BEANS</u></b>	<b>Blue Lake</b>	<b>Climbing variety, crops well. (Almost gone)</b>			50g	60p			
	Scarlet Emperor	Early variety			100g	75p			
	Enorma	Extra long pods			100g	95p			
	Painted Lady	Outstanding flavour			100g	£1.10			
	Polestar	Early variety			100g	£1.15			
	Red Knight	Very heavy cropping stringless variety			100g	£1.35			
	White Lady	White flowered variety - less liable to bird damage			100g	£1.45			
	Hestia	Dwarf early variety, suitable for tubs			100g	£1.85			
<b><u>LAWN CARE</u></b>	Moonlight	White flowered variety, sets easily			100g	£2.25			
	Grass seed, hard wearing, low maintenance.					100 g	£0.75		
	Lawn sand					2.5 kg	£1.75		
	'Sportsmaster' spring/summer lawn feed					1 kg	£2.00		
	'Renovator Pro' lawn weed, feed and moss killer					1 kg	£2.00		
<b><u>SEEDS</u></b>	<b>A large order of seeds for Spring sowing has arrived.</b> Can't find the seed variety you particularly wanted? Add it to the new <b>Seed Request Book</b> .								
<b><u>BULK MATERIALS</u></b>	Multipurpose Compost	40 litre	£2.00	80 litre	£4.00	3x80 ltr	£11.00		
	Horse Manure Compost	45 litre	£2.00	70 litre	£3.60				
	Ericaceous Compost	75 litre	£3.75						
	John Innes No.1 John Innes No.3	25 litre	£5.00						
	Somerset Peat	40 litre	£2.50						
	Somerset Topsoil	25 litre	£2.50						
	Oak Tree brand Grow Bags	33 litre	£7.95						
	"Groworganic" fertiliser	40 litre	£7.95						
	6X Organic chicken manure pellets	20 kg	£8.95						
	Potting grit (new stock)	Bag	£1.30						
	Sharp sand	Bag	£0.95						
	Oak Tree brand Landscape Bark	70 litre	£5.50	2x70 litre	£10.00				
	<b><u>WRHS GROWN PLANTS</u></b>	Peas - Douce Provence, Onward	tray	£1.50					
Broad Beans - Bunyard's Exhibition		tray	£1.50						
Onions - Senshyu Yellow			£1.00						
Cabbage – Duncan			65p						
Calabrese – Marathon			65p						
Cauliflower - Mayflower			65p						
<b>Coming soon</b> - French Beans, Celeriac, Celery, Indoor Cucumber, Leeks									

## WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

- 🌱 **Seeds to sow outdoors** in well-prepared soil: beetroot, carrots, Swiss chard, summer cauliflower, kohlrabi, lettuce, leeks, radish, turnip, spring and pickling onions, peas, perpetual spinach.
- 🌱 **Seeds to sow indoors:** marrows, courgettes, pumpkins, squash, sweet peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, celery, celeriac, salads, globe artichokes.
- 🌱 Chit and plant out **second early potatoes** in the first half of the month, **maincrop potatoes** in the second half.
- 🌱 Plant out pot-grown **broad beans**, shallots, onion sets, garlic, Jerusalem artichoke tubers, asparagus crowns.
- 🌱 Sow dwarf French beans and sweet corn outside under cloches or fleece at the end of April.
- 🌱 Sow sprouting broccoli, cauliflowers, & cabbages in a seedbed, for transplanting in June or July.
- 🌱 Pot up tomato seedlings when they develop true leaves above the initial, rounded seed leaves.
- 🌱 Plant out pot-grown fruit trees and bushes.
- 🚩 Watch for problems: apple & pear scab, aphids, apple sucker, pear sucker, pear midge, caterpillars, powdery mildew, red spider mite, aphids, American gooseberry mildew. The Trading Post has lots of [Pesticides](#).
- 😓 Start [weeding](#)!

### LAWN CARE

Cut a 3 inch gutter using a half-moon edging tool, to dissuade the lawn from invading the borders. Apply a high nitrogen fertiliser in early April. If moss is a problem choose a combined fertiliser and moss killer. Lawn weed-killer is best applied in April.

Follow the instructions carefully  
all lawn chemicals can pollute groundwater.

Don't forget that you can hire a [spreader](#) from the Trading Post to distribute those chemicals evenly and easily.

Lightly rake lawns with a spring-time rake to remove dead material; repeat two weeks after applying moss killer.

Repair bumps and hollows by peeling back the turf, removing or adding [soil](#), and then replacing the turf.

### TOMATOES

There's a new variety of tomato seeds at the Trading Post.

"**Outdoor Girl**" was bought in specially after one member recommended this variety so enthusiastically.

**Outdoor Girl** crops very early, with fruit of 60 to 70 mm.

There is still time to plant tomato seeds.

**Outdoor Girl** is well worth trying.

Remember, all packeted seeds at the Trading Post are sold at 10% less than the retail price.



## SOCIAL EVENTS

### [Plant Swap Day](#)

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016** 10:00am until 12:00 noon  
If you can make some cakes or scones for this event, please speak to Jackie Rockett, or email [wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk](mailto:wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk)

### [Quiz Night](#)

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016.**  
Starts at 7:30pm prompt !

Questions on gardening and many other subjects

**Tickets £5 each**

The price includes a finger buffet - bring your own drinks

**Tickets are on sale now at the Trading Post**  
**Places are limited to 30.**  
**20 sold already - only 10 left**

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

### [Trip to Wilton House & Country Fair](#)

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

Details and booking forms should be available at the Trading Post this month



### Summer Show



**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

30 Classes - flowers, fruit, vegetables, cakes, preserves, handicrafts, photography

**Schedule & Entry Form available now from the Trading Post and on the [website](#)**



## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The progress in developing the Management Systems of the Society is growing apace and negotiations are still continuing as to the most appropriate structure to suit the Society's needs.

The Trading Post is fully stocked giving Members significant choice in the planning and development of their gardens/allotments, but Members' advice and guidance is still valuable input to these decisions.

Hopefully the weather will be kind to us, enabling us to have a Spring in our steps, healthy exercise and a bounty of crops to enjoy.

Brian Shaw (Chairman)

## MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI

Never mind if you can't spell it - you can benefit from using mycorrhizal fungi in your garden.

Mycorrhizal fungi form symbiotic relationships with plants. They live in or on the roots, extend their hyphae into the soil and make phosphate, nitrogen, other nutrients and water available to the host plant.

**They extend the effective root area many hundreds of times** so plants grow faster, larger and stronger with less fertiliser and water. Fertilisers incorporating mycorrhizal fungi have been used by commercial growers for some time, but are now available to all of us.

Mycorrhizal fungi preparations are available either with fertiliser (Vitax Q4 Plus) or alone (Vitax Q4 Rootmore), and are suitable for most flowers, vegetables, grasses, bulbs, fruit trees, shrubs, foliage plants, berries and nut trees. Various sizes of both products are in stock at the Trading Post. Not suitable for brassicas, laurel, rhododendron, azalea, blueberry, cranberry and loganberry.

A more detailed article will appear on the "Horticultural Tips" website page shortly.



## BUILDING WORK

Fire extinguishers have been re-sited to comply with regulations.

Urgent repairs to the shed roof are being organised. Exterior painting will be deferred until the weather improves.

## FOR SALE



### BIO GREEN HEAT MAT

Complete with thermostat and soil probe.

40cm x 120cm 85 watt Hardly used.

Cost £75.00 - For sale at £40.00

Enquire at the Trading Post

## WRHS WEBSITE

The WRHS [website](#) continues to take shape. It now has more than 50 pages, many of which are devoted to what's in stock at the Trading Post. New pages of stock, prices and information are being added as quickly as possible.

Nowadays, we all shop online, so get into the habit of checking your Society's web site before you buy.

There have been several silly stories lately of members thinking they had got a good deal online, only to find they could have done even better at the Trading Post.

The more the Trading Post sells, the better the deals the Trading Team can get,  
**and those savings will be passed on to you.**

The new [HORTICULTURAL TIPS](#) page has its first technical article - "[Which Fertiliser?](#)" Watch [this space](#) for more.

The blue underlined links in this newsletter should take you to the relevant pages of the WRHS website.

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